TURKEY.

ABDUCTION BY BRIGANDS, RANSOM, AND RELEASE OF MISS ELLEN M. STONE, AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 5, 1901.

(Mr. Leishman reports that the United States consular agent at Salonica has advised him by telegraph that Miss Stone, an American missionary, has been carried off by brigands while traveling from Raslog to Djumabala with a lady companion, and that the matter has been actively taken up with the Porte by Mr. Leishman.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 73.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 13, 1901.

SIR: I beg to inclose you copy of correspondence from the consul-general which will give you all the information I have been able to obtain so far in regard to the abduction of Miss Stone by brigands in the vilayet of Salonica.

Although it is about ten days since the outrage was committed, no demand for ransom has yet been made. It is quite within the range of probabilities that the brigands are Bulgarians, not Turks, as the place where they were stopped is quite close to the Bulgarian frontier; but at this writing it is impossible to make any positive statement.

Although the delay must be terrible to the family and friends of Miss Stone, I am quite of the same opinion as the consul-general and consular agent at Salonica that any great activity on the part of the Turkish troops would only force the brigands deeper into the mountains, and if pressed too closely they might kill Miss Stone rather than allow her to be rescued. As soon as the brigands feel safe they will in all probability send the native woman who is with Miss Stone back with a demand for ransom, and in case I am unable to induce the Ottoman Government to pay same, I have notified Mr. Peet, the secretary of the Bible House Society, that he should be ready for emergencies, and that the question of getting the money back will have to be left for future consideration, as I could make no guaranty or take official action in regard to ransom without first receiving instructions from the Department. Mr. Peet assured me that he was prepared to act promptly.

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. Lazzaro to Mr. Dickinson.

No. 556.] UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENCY,
Salonica, Turkey, September 5, 1901.

SIR: Last night at 1 a. m. Dr. House, an American missionary to the Bulgarians residing here, came to me with a telegram from Mr. Sedloeff, his correspondent at Razlog (vilayet of Salonica), stating that Miss Ellen Stone, also a missionary with headquarters in Salonica, but residing for the last couple of weeks at Razlog, had been carried off by brigands on the previous day while on her way to Djumabala. She was at the time traveling with three or four lady companions, Bulgarian teachers. Some of these ladies were presumably not molested, but allowed to return to Razlog, where they brought the news of the outrage. One, however, of Miss Stone's companions, named Mrs. Tsilka, was also carried off. The place where the outrage occurred is called the great rocks, and the brigands escaped with their prisoners to the mountains near by.

On hearing this news I immediately wired you last night as follows:

"Have been just informed that Miss Ellen Stone, American missionary here, on her way from Razlog to Djumabala, September 3, was carried off with lady companion by brigands. No details. Shall interview vali early morning."

This morning I obtained an interview from the vali in his private dwelling and brought the matter before him, especially drawing his attention to the necessity not to send troops after the brigands at present. The fact is that in every case when troops were sent after the brigands before the release of the prisioners the latter were put to death. The object of the brigands is indubitably to obtain a ransom, and if hard pressed by troops before the release of the prisoners the lives of the latter are certainly jeopardized. I further pointed out to the vali that the calamity would be much greater if loss of life occurred, and that the Government ought to do everything in its power not to incur further responsibilities. The vali promised to do everything I asked him, and wired in my presence to the mutessarif of Serres requesting him to have troops dispatched toward the neighborhood of the outrage, and that said troops were not to molest the brigands, but keep a watchful eye on their movements, and only interfere in case they could help the prisoners without endangering their lives. In similar cases, when a foreign subject was carried off by brigands, and these cases have been quite frequent in our region, the Turkish Government has always paid the ransom; but owing to the penury of the treasury the foreign governments have generally advanced the money in order to avoid delay. I would strongly recommend this course, and shall wire you as soon as I hear that you come to an understanding with the Government in Washington, so that you may be able to dispose of a certain sum should this prove necessary. I further suggest that you also insist with the Porte on the nonadvisability of sending at present troops after the brigands.

I am inclined to think that the brigands have kept Mrs. Tsilka in order to transmit through her their demands and that this lady will be shortly released for the above purpose.

I shall wire you as soon as I have anything new to communicate.

I understand Dr. House has wired to the secretary of the Evangelical Society in Boston, to which both he and Miss Stone belong.

I have, etc.,

P. H. LAZZARO,
United States Consular Agent.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Baird to Mr. Dickinson.

SAMAKOV, *September 7, 1901.*

SIR: We were greatly pained yesterday at noon to learn from a telegram from Dr. House (Salonica) that Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka, the wife of the Albanian preacher, were captured and carried off by a band of brigands on September 3, about 4 p. m., while on their way with quite a company of friends from Banska to Djumabala. I went to the government here and informed them so that they might be on the lookout for these outlaws should they attempt to bring their captives into Bulgaria.

Just before sunset September 7 two of our students from Bansko arrived. They were with Miss Stone when the brigands captured the party. From their accounts, by the aid of questions, I got the following:

The whole party, about fifteen or eighteen, were suddenly stopped in a narrow valley and as soon as possible all were compelled to wade a river and ascend the wooded mountain side as fast as threats could make them for about an hour.

Not all the captors could be seen, but twenty were counted at one time and it was the opinion that there must have been forty of them, dressed like Turks and talking bad Turkish. They spoke occasionally in good Bulgarian and were glad to find among the provisions carried by the party several okes of bacon and ham.

They knew Miss Stone, showing that they were mainly after her. She and Mrs. Tsilka were taken on further and seen no more. The remainder were relieved of money and watches and compelled to stay all night under strict guard. After sunrise the brigands who watched them went up the mountain and the remainder of the party were free.

Our two students passed through Djumabala and on across the border to Bulgaria; the remainder of those released returned to Bansko.

It seems that this detention of all the party kept the Turkish Government from getting any knowledge of even the presence of brigands till about noon of the 4th, and gave the outlaws a chance of hurrying their captives to a place far distant from the scene of their capture. A Turk captured just before this party was taken up the mountain with them and beaten to death before their eyes.

I know nothing as to which direction the captives were taken. I think it most likely that they will be brought into Bulgaria; because, first, it is very probable that a large proportion of the brigands make Bulgaria their headquarters; second, when the Turkish troops get thawed out enough to chase the brigands these latter will naturally prefer to be in Bulgaria; third, if they can get quickly across the border into Bulgaria they can peacefully secrete their victims and by keeping quiet live honorable (?) lives till they get their ransom.

What those two women will suffer can be imagined. May God guard them.

A Bulgarian officer came to-day, sent by the government, to learn about the brigands. He said they had special instruction and that they would guard their border very closely.

J. W. BAIRD.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 75.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 20, 1901.

SIR: Although it is now two weeks since Miss Stone was captured by the brigands no word has as yet been received about her and no demand for ransom. Numerous reports have been received, some to the effect that they were Turkish soldiers in disguise, some that they were Macedonian agitators instigated to commit the crime by the central Bulgarian committee in the hope of stirring up foreign intervention, and others that they were Bulgarian bandits who had crossed the frontier, and that the delay in making their demands was caused by the difficulty they were experiencing in getting back into their own country or finding a secure place of retreat. The latter theory is the one I am most inclined to credit, but it is impossible at present to form a definite opinion. The Ottoman Government is doing everything that could be expected. They have already captured three men who, it is claimed, acted as guides, and hope through them to locate the band, but are compelled to act with caution for fear that if pressed too closely the brigands may injure or kill Miss Stone, their idea being first to locate Miss Stone, negotiate for her safe delivery, and then pursue the band afterwards.

Regretting my inability to furnish you with more definite information at present,

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 23, 1901.

(Mr. Leishman states that no definite news concerning Miss Stone has been received, but that the best obtainable information indicates that the brigands were Bulgarians who recrossed the frontier after capturing Miss Stone.

Mr. Leishman has advised Mr. Dickinson, United States consul-general at Constantinople, to proceed to Sofia and take the matter up with the Bulgarian Government there.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 79.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 24, 1901.

SIR: Referring to the abduction of Miss Ellen M. Stone by brigands, you will observe from copy of correspondence inclosed herewith that the scene of operations appears to have shifted from Turkish to Bulgarian territory, and judging from the best information obtainable the miscreants who committed the outrage were Bulgarians, or possibly Macedonians, living close to the frontier, instigated by the central Bulgarian committee. I am not disposed, however, to accept the opinion of a number of the missionaries, which seems to be partly shared by Mr. McGregor, acting British agent at Sofia (who up to the present time has been looking after American interests, as Mr. Dickinson has not presented his credentials, although, as I advised privately, all objections have been removed), that the outrage was committed for political reasons under the direction of the central Bulgarian Macedonian committee with the hope of stirring up foreign intervention. I consider that it is quite within the range of probabilities that the central committee may have had a hand in the matter, but in all probability the principal motive was money; and the only way I can explain the long delay in sending a demand for ransom is that the Turkish Government not only acted very promptly, but with unusual activity, keeping the brigands on the move and thus preventing them from feeling secure enough to warrant opening up negotiations; but now that they have succeeded in recrossing the frontier, notwithstanding the assurance given me by Mr. Guechoff, the Bulgarian agent, that his government was guarding the frontier so closely that it would be impossible for the brigands to enter Bulgaria, it is reasonable to expect that negotiations may be commenced that will lead to the prompt and safe return of Miss Stone, especially if Mr. Dickinson can induce the Bulgarian authorities to act with the same energy that the Turkish officials have displayed, the latter having acted with so much energy that the consul-general and several of the leading officers of the missionary board have been to see me, advising against such great activity, fearing that if too closely pressed the brigands might harm Miss Stone rather than permit her to be rescued.

* * * I feel quite satisfied that it is only a question of money

and that the brigands will take the best care possible of Miss Stone and return her unharmed to her friends as soon as the question of ransom is settled.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. McGregor to Mr. Leishman.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S AGENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Sofia, September 16, 1901.

SIR: With reference to my telegram of yesterday morning, which I presume was duly communicated to you by His Majesty's ambassador, I have the honor to report that, immediately on learning that the American citizen, Miss Stone, and her companion had been captured by brigands within a short distance of the Bulgarian frontier, I wrote to Mr. Daneff, the Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, requesting that the necessary vigilance should be exercised by the frontier guards, and was informed the same day by Mr. Daneff that measures in that sense had, from the first moment, been taken by His Excellency's Government.

Since then the local newspapers, and among them a journal said to be inspired by Mr. Daneff, have announced that the outrage is supposed to have been perpetrated by Turkish deserters, an announcement which has been taken advantage of by the Reforme, the organ of the Macedonian central committee, to publish a diatribe against the evils of Ottoman administration in Macedonia.

On the evening of the 14th instant, however, I received from the Rev. Robert Thomson, a British subject in the employ of the American mission at Samakoff, a letter, of which I have the honor to inclose a copy, putting quite a different and, in my opinion, a much more serious complexion on the whole matter.

Mr. Thomson, whom I believe to be a cautious and trustworthy man, quotes facts pointing unmistakably to the act having been the work of the secret committee in Macedonia which, as Mr. Daneff admitted to me lately, has had relations with Boris Saratoff, ex-president of the central committee, as well as with several other members of the same committee. Now, it has been hinted in several newspapers which profess to be acquainted with the views of Saratoff and his henchmen that it had been decided, in the hope of provoking a European intervention, to render existence in Macedonia impossible for foreigners, and the circumstances of Miss Stone's capture, viewed in the light of Mr. Thomson's letter, seem to me to afford strong grounds for assuming that Saratoff has begun to put his scheme into execution. It is also stated here in many quarters that Saratoff is contemplating leaving the country for Odessa, and, in consideration of the desirableness of ascertaining whether this crime can be brought home to him and his associates, I have thought it my duty to acquaint the Bulgarian Government with the facts which have come to my knowledge, warning them at the same time that under these circumstances they would incur a grave moral responsibility by allowing Saratoff to quit Bulgarian territory for the present.

Not having found Mr. Saratoff, the acting minister for foreign affairs, at home yesterday morning, I called on Selim Bey, the acting Ottoman commissary, and, on learning that he had no news to give beyond the fact that the brigands were believed by the Turkish authorities to be Bulgarians, I confidentially communicated to him the information I had received, without, however, disclosing the source, and urged upon him the importance of preventing the brigands from escaping into Bulgarian territory. Selim Bey promised to inform his Government forthwith and said he would do his best to obtain the particulars necessary in order to establish the connivance of the Macedonians here, whose undoubted complicity in the outrages daily committed in the province had already formed the subject of much animated but sterile correspondence with the Bulgarian Government.

Having subsequently made two unsuccessful attempts to see Mr. Saratoff (the minister) I finally called this morning on Mr. Vernazza, secretary-general at the ministry for foreign affairs, and on ascertaining that he had no news regarding the identity of the brigands or the result of their pursuit, I communicated to him the contents of Mr. Thomson's letter and stated my reasons for suspecting the outrage to be the work of individuals acting under orders from Sofia. I told Mr. Vernazza that, under the circumstances, it would be regrettable were Boris Saratoff or any of his more noteworthy associates allowed to put themselves beyond the reach of Bulgarian juris-

diction so long as involved directly or indirectly in Miss Stone's capture, as in the event of such proving to be the case I had no doubt that, in the eyes of the United States Government, a grave moral responsibility would be at the door of the Bulgarian authorities.

Mr. Vernazza took a note of my representations which he promised to communicate to Mr. Saratoff, and I shall have the honor to acquaint you with the minister's reply at the earliest opportunity.

I should be glad to know if my action so far has your approval. I am sending a copy of this dispatch to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

I have, etc.,

JAMES MCGREGOR,
His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. McGregor to Mr. Leishman.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S AGENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Sofia, September 19, 1901.

SIR: In continuation of my dispatch of the 16th instant, I have the honor to report that I called yesterday on Mr. Saratoff, the minister of the interior, who is at present acting as minister of foreign affairs, and repeated to him the facts already communicated to Mr. Vernazza regarding the circumstances of Miss Stone's capture, adding that according to information I had just received the brigands were supposed to have taken refuge in the Rilo Mountains, and were, perhaps, at this moment in Bulgarian territory. I should mention that I had this information from Selim Bey, the acting Ottoman commissary, who has, moreover, received a telegram from his Government confirming the suspicion that the brigands are Macedonians, and is about to address a note to the Bulgarian Government demanding a strict inquiry.

Mr. Saratoff thanked me for the information and promised not only to send immediate instructions to the military authorities in the Rilo district, but also to have Saratoff and his associates carefully watched by the police. He said, however, that in the absence of a specific accusation it would be difficult for the authorities to refuse Saratoff a passport supposing it to be true that he intended to go to England, as the minister professed to have heard was the case. Saratoff was completely ruined as far as regards his influence with the Macedonians, and it was highly improbable that he could have had a hand in this business.

It is possible that Mr. Saratoff may be right in saying that his namesake is no longer all-powerful, and that he is out of favor with the newly elected committee; but he is still the center of a circle of admirers, and it can not be imagined that he will renounce what has hitherto been his means of livelihood. I therefore reminded Mr. Saratoff that neither his Government, nor any of his predecessors, had ever been at a loss to devise administrative measures when circumstances seemed to call for them; I had considered it my duty to aid the Government in its efforts to repress the excesses attributed to agents of the committee and the responsibility for taking action or remaining quiescent would rest with the Government.

I have, etc.,

JAMES MCGREGOR.

[Inclosure 3.]

Mr. McGregor to Mr. Leishman.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S AGENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Sofia, September 20, 1901.

SIR: With reference to my dispatch of yesterday's date, I have the honor to report that, according to reliable information received just as the bag is closing, Boris Saratoff left Sofia on the 15th instant en route for Odessa, a fact which must have been known to the acting minister for foreign affairs when I attended his reception on the 18th instant.

I have, etc.,

JAMES MCGREGOR.

[Inclosure 4.]

Mr. Dickinson to Mr. Leishman.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Constantinople, September 20, 1901.

SIR: Referring further to the capture of Miss Stone, Agent Lazzaro sent me last night a further telegram, as follows:

"Vali informs brigands' agent caught Banitza. Stone kept some time in huts at Obesnik, whence by Kresne crossed toward Melenik. Evidently not passed Bulgarian frontier. Authorities Melenik, Djumabala, Nevrecop, Serres continuing search."

The statement that the agent of the brigands has been "caught" and the authorities are continuing the search justifies the inference that the latter may be pressing the matter so closely as to jeopardize the life of Miss Stone. Naturally they are bent on catching the brigands, both for vengeance and the hope of reward. * * *

If the agent of the brigands has been caught, he should be set at liberty and negotiations for ransom opened at once. I telegraphed Agent Lazzaro to the foregoing effect on receipt of his telegram, and also to urge Vali to prevent escape of brigands across the Bulgarian border, but not to press the search too vigorously. In harmony with our personal conference, all our efforts at first must be directed to the rescue of Miss Stone. This will lead to sufficient identification, and the punishment of the guilty parties can be vigorously and safely pursued thereafter.

Agent Lazzaro also reports by written dispatch that one of the guides of the brigands testifies that just before the capture of the Stone party he heard Dentzo, the leader of the brigands, say that they expected to make their fortunes by this capture. This, and the appearance of the agent of the brigands, seems to settle definitely their purpose, and his appearance also indicates that they believe they have reached a place of hiding where negotiations for ransom may be safely opened.

I am, etc.,

CHAS. M. DICKINSON.

[Inclosure 5.]

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Dickinson.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 24, 1901.

SIR: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your No. 414 of even date and note contents with interest.

As all the information obtained during the past two weeks tends to prove that the brigands who carried off Miss Stone were Bulgarians who, according to the telegram you received last evening from agent Lazzaro, have succeeded in recrossing the Bulgarian frontier and are now supposed to be in the neighborhood of Batak, I would urge upon you the advisability of your going to Sofia at once in order to take the matter up personally with the Bulgarian Government; for while Mr. McGregor is no doubt doing everything in his power, I am inclined to believe that representations from the accredited agent of the United States might bring the Bulgarian Government to a more prompt realization of the importance of taking the most active and energetic measures to secure Miss Stone's release.

While I have no positive information on the subject, I am inclined to believe that the man arrested by the Turkish soldiers, supposed to be an agent of the brigands, is still in custody. I spoke to the minister for foreign affairs on Saturday in regard to this man, and was informed that outside of the man's own admission that he was an agent of the brigands they had been unable to obtain any information, as the man denied all knowledge of their whereabouts and of the fact of his being the bearer of any demand for ransom.

I can only add that the minister for foreign affairs again assured me that every effort was being made to locate the brigands, and that the first care would be to secure Miss Stone's safe return to her friends.

I do not share your fear that Miss Stone's chance of rescue has been materially lessened, being rather inclined to take the reverse view, for the reason that the brigands are quite sure to commence negotiations for ransom the moment they feel secure, which the activity of the Turkish troops may have prevented so long as they remained in Turkish territory; for even if later developments should prove that the Macedonian committee has been the instigator of the dastardly outrage, sordid gain in the shape of a ransom is no doubt the main factor which induced the miscreants to commit the deed.

I am, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 28, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports that a letter from Miss Stone, dated September 20, was delivered by an agent of the brigands to Mr. Haskell, a missionary, at Samfue, on September 28, declaring that if a ransom of 25,000 Turkish pounds be not paid before October 8 she will be killed; that, judging by former similar cases, it is certain that the threat will be carried out.

Mr. Eddy has requested the Porte to hold the Turkish pursuing forces somewhat in check, and hopes shortly to enter into negotiations with the brigands, when he will endeavor to reduce the amount demanded for ransom. He states that the missionaries were unable to pay anything like 25,000 pounds and requests immediate instructions in regard to payment.

Mr. Eddy reiterates Mr. Leishman's suggestion that Consul-General Dickinson be directed to proceed to Sofia, as it is considered probable that the brigands will cross into Bulgaria.)

Mr. Hill to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 28, 1901.

(Mr. Hill states that Consul-General Dickinson has been instructed by telegraph regarding his conduct of the matter of Miss Stone in its Bulgarian aspects, and instructs that the legation equally do all in its power and discretion with the Turkish Government to bring about Miss Stone's release.

Mr. Eddy is instructed, in case the agent should go to Sofia, to keep in communication with him and with the mission treasurer, aiding the agent in every possible discreet way.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

No. 89.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, October 2, 1901.

SIR: In continuation of Mr. Leishman's dispatches, Nos. 73, 75, and 79, regarding the abduction of Miss Stone by brigands, I have now the honor to inform you of what has taken place since the date of the minister's departure, September 25.

On the morning of September 27, Mr. Peet, the treasurer of the Bible House, appeared at this legation, bringing with him Dr. Haskell, a missionary, who resides and carries on his work at Samakow. Dr. Haskell had arrived in Constantinople the evening before, bringing with him a letter from Miss Stone (a copy of which is herewith inclosed), which had been delivered at his house two days previously

by an agent of the brigands. The amount of ransom demanded in this letter was an inordinate sum, 25,000 Turkish pounds, and the brigands gave until the 8th of October for its payment, at the end of which time, if the ransom were not paid, Miss Stone would be killed.

From previous incidents of this nature which have taken place in Turkey and in the East, I felt sure that the threat would be carried out, and the opinion of all whom I consulted in the matter coincided with this view. But, at the same time, the sum demanded was so enormous that it was out of the question for the missionary societies to get the money together.

Mr. Peet and Dr. Haskell, by using every effort, succeeded in getting together evidence sufficient to warrant the belief that the brigands were men hired by the Bulgarian central or secret committee to abduct Miss Stone. The missionaries have always refused to contribute toward the support of this political faction in Bulgaria, and threats had been openly made that they (the missionaries) would be forced to pay in some way or another. One preacher was informed anonymously that if he did not contribute toward the fund his barn would be burned. As he failed to comply with the demand, the threat was carried out. The missions would seem to be very unpopular with the revolutionary party in Bulgaria, and this party appears to support itself by contributions from this part of the country, which contributions are paid on account of fear for the result should they fail to comply with the demand. Furthermore, the armed men who surrounded Miss Stone's party were not speaking Turkish, but Bulgarian, though they attempted to pass themselves off for Turks. In addition to this evidence, one of the students at Robert College, at Roumelie Hissar, was in a café at Samakow shortly after the abduction, and there overheard a conversation between two known members of the revolutionary party, in the course of which conversation it was said that the abduction had not been planned and carried out primarily for the sake of obtaining money, but rather to cause all the trouble and annoyance possible to foreigners, and to make it appear that this trouble was caused by Turks. Moreover, they said that the sum demanded for Miss Stone's release was of course absurd, but that should they obtain 2,000 or 3,000 pounds it would be very convenient, and they would thus have been able to compel the missionaries to contribute to their fund.

As the consul-general, Mr. Peet, Dr. Haskell, and Dr. Washburn were also convinced that it was a case of "political brigandage," caused and directed by the Bulgarian central committee, I cabled to the Department asking that Mr. Dickinson be directed to proceed at once to Sofia, and thus be in a position to lay the matter before the minister for foreign affairs. It seemed to me that if the matter were brought properly before the Bulgarian government pressure would be brought to bear on the leaders of the central committee, which, it is said, has at least one of two members in the cabinet. I learned from one of the ambassadors now stationed in Constantinople that the Bulgarian government had the hopes of being assisted financially by the United States in the not far distant future, and it seemed to me that, with our representative on the ground, our influence might be strong enough to cause Miss Stone's release without any payment whatever.

The Department in its reply to my telegram said nothing about Mr. Dickinson's departure for Sofia, but in a telegram of instruction

to the consul-general he was granted permission to go if he saw fit. Last night he decided to start, and this evening he will leave Constantinople.

I regret that the forty-eight hours have been lost, as it is absolutely necessary to begin negotiating in a definite manner with the brigands inside of the next three days; and should negotiations be opened with them from us in Constantinople for the payment of a ransom it would cause the efforts of Mr. Dickinson to be less valuable at Sofia, for the secret committee would certainly prefer to settle the matter on a monetary than on a diplomatic basis. But I do not dare to wait any longer before replying in some way to the agent of the party which is secreting Miss Stone. Her safety seems to me to be the first thing which must be considered.

I obtained an interview with the minister for foreign affairs at his house this morning, and in the course of this interview I pointed out to him that whatever sum was ultimately agreed upon between the brigands and ourselves would have to be paid by the Turkish Government.

After some conversation he agreed that precedent warranted the demanding of this money from the Porte. He furthermore agreed that in three days' time he would appoint some Turkish official in the vilayet of Salonica to act in conjunction with our representative in treating with Miss Stone's captors.

Should anything further of importance come to light within the next few days I shall not fail to keep in touch with the Department by cable, but I feel that we have the matter pretty well in hand and that everything possible is being done. Mr. Peet, treasurer of the Bible House, has proved himself invaluable on account of his knowledge of the country and the people, and has been indefatigable in his efforts to be of assistance.

I have, etc., SPENCER EDDY.

[Inclosure.]

Miss Stone to Mr. Peet.

MACEDONIA, *September 20, 1901.*

MY HONORED FRIEND: My first letter which I sent eleven days ago I now learn has not been forwarded to you by the person in Raslog (Macedonia) into whose hands we intrusted it. Therefore I write you again to inform you that on the 3d of September I was captured by a great number of armed men (some forty) as I traveled from Bansko to Djumaaia, with about twelve teachers, students, and others. They took with me for my companion Mrs. Catharine Tsilka. The ransom they demand for us is 25,000 Turkish liras, which sum must be paid in gold, and this entirely without the knowledge of the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments, in a term of eighteen days from to-day. In my first letter I had mentioned that the condition in which Mrs. Tsilka is decided the limit, as she is to give birth to a child in three months. But now, as the circumstances have changed, and we know that we are pursued by the Turkish Army, this short term has been fixed. I beg Dr. Haskell himself to go to Constantinople to exert himself for the payment of the ransom in Samakow, where the men will receive it only on presenting an order from me.

The men who captured us at the first showed courtesy and conducted themselves very well toward us. But now since Turkish soldiers and "bashi-bazouks" have begun to pursue us and the ransom is delayed, our condition is altogether changed. Therefore I beg you to hasten the sending of the sum (i. e., of the ransom demanded), and that as much as possible you will insist before the Turkish Government that it stop the pursuit of us by the soldiers and "bashi-bazouks;" otherwise we shall be killed by the people in whose hands we are.

I pray you, Mr. Peet, communicate without delay the contents of this letter to the representative of the United States at the Porte, and request his most serious cooperation.

Pray for us. We are kept in the peace of God.

Your friend, ELLEN M. STONE.

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 3, 1901.

(Mr. Adee directs Mr. Eddy to informally consult the Russian ambassador and say that the United States Government would be pleased if he might feel free to use at once his good offices and exert his influence, in whatever direction, in aid of the rescue of Miss Stone, and states that Mr. Eddy may, in the same way, invoke the aid of any other foreign minister who may be able to render assistance.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 4, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that if Miss Stone is held in Turkey, Mr. Eddy is to bring to the attention of the Turkish Government the facts in relation to the abduction and the very great importance the United States Government attaches to her safe deliverance from the brigands; to request the aid of the Turkish Government and impress upon it the extreme gravity of the affair.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 4, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that the people of the United States are thrilled with horror by the kidnaping of Miss Stone, and directs Mr. Eddy to say to the Porte that the Government of the United States urgently requests it to use its utmost efforts to effect her rescue.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Adee.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, October 5, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports that he has called the attention of the Turkish minister for foreign affairs most urgently to the matter of the abduction of Miss Stone; that the minister admits the responsibility of his

Government for the safety of Miss Stone and for the ransom. Mr. Eddy is convinced that the Turkish Government is doing all it can in the matter; he states that Mr. Dickinson is at Sofia, and will use every effort there; that the British embassy is rendering great assistance, and that he is to have an immediate consultation with the Russian ambassador.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Adee.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.
Constantinople, October 5, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports that the Russian ambassador has telegraphed instructions to Sofia, and will do all in his power to assist; that the British ambassador approves steps taken by United States officials, and that he will endeavor to persuade the German and Austrian ambassadors to follow the example of those of Russia and Great Britain.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 5, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that the missionary board has decided it can not be responsible for payment of the ransom, and that there is no possibility of the United States Government paying or guaranteeing same; that friends of Miss Stone are endeavoring to raise money by charitable subscription, which may in time be successful.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 5, 1901.

(Mr. Adee directs Mr. Eddy to say to the Turkish Government that inasmuch as it has admitted its responsibility for the safety of Miss Stone and for her ransom, and in view of the friendly relations between the two Governments, it is confidently hoped by the Government of the United States that her safe deliverance will be brought about by the Turkish Government.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 6, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that the secretary of the mission board telegraphs that the money needed for Miss Stone's ransom will undoubtedly be

raised by popular subscription, which is already begun; that Mr. Eddy's efforts are warmly approved; that Russian cooperation, especially at Sofia, is most valuable and is cordially welcomed, as is also the weighty aid of the other ambassadors.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, October 7, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports that at an interview with the Turkish minister for foreign affairs he advanced the substance of the Department's representations regarding the gravity of the situation; that he believes the Turkish Government have done all in their power, up to the present, to rescue Miss Stone; that spies, detectives, and troops are exceedingly numerous along the frontier, and report that Miss Stone is in Bulgaria, at a place called Pinlai; that the Turkish authorities therefore can do no more to rescue her, and she must now be either ransomed in the regular manner or through the strong influence which the ambassadors are bringing to bear on the Bulgarian Government, and through that Government on the secret committee; that this influence may bring about her release with only nominal ransom; that when Bulgaria realizes that there is a feeling of horror throughout the civilized world for the crimes committed by the secret committee, it is possible that vigorous measures will be taken against the committee. * * *)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 8, 1901.

(Mr. Adee directs Mr. Eddy not to relax his efforts with the Turkish Government, and to continue to enlist all possible cooperation of ambassadors to impress Bulgarian Government and strengthen the hands of the United States agent at Sofia, and states that neither the United States Government nor the missionary board have any responsibility regarding ransom; they simply do not obstruct private charity.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Adee.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, October 9, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports having received from Mr. Dickinson, United States agent at Sofia, the following telegram dated October 8:

Last night I received information which I deem reliable that eighteen brigands, with Miss Stone and companion, are on top of Gultepe, which is near Turkish hamlet

Eleshnita, almost exactly on the frontier line, or at least they were there last Saturday. Miss Stone was well, but the brigands are evidently getting discouraged, for they are reported as saying to confederate that if surrounded by Bulgarian troops they would surrender, but if surrounded by Turkish troops they would kill prisoners and fight to the last man. They know what capture means in Turkey. After consulting with the Government I decided to ask that Bulgarian troops be gathered this morning at that point and the Turkish authorities be asked to surround Gultepe, on the Turkish side, and cautiously press brigands across the border, where the Bulgarian troops will be concealed in the thick bush ready to capture them.

Mr. Eddy does not approve the action reported above, as he considers it unwarranted and dangerous to prisoners' lives.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Adee.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, October 11, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports the receipt of the following telegram from Mr. Dickinson:

Commandant at Salonica has asked instructions from Constantinople. Some brigands write that they will kill prisoners and disperse if ransom is not paid this week. Brigands seen yesterday at Taxouronda, near Gultepe.

Mr. Eddy states that the above information shows the failure of the plan reported in his telegram of October 9, and that the lives of the prisoners are in immediate danger. He urgently advises the withdrawal of Bulgarian troops from the neighborhood of the brigands, and has already requested Turkish Government to withdraw Turkish forces. When this has been done, he states, negotiations for payment of ransom may proceed, which will be impossible as long as brigands are pursued.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 11, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that the paramount object of the United States Government is to save Miss Stone; that there is much danger that any movement of troops or any demonstration whatever of an apparently hostile character may bring about her instant death; and directs Mr. Eddy to use utmost caution in this respect; that unless there is assurance of Miss Stone's safe deliverance by the plan of causing brigands to surrender to Bulgarian troops as a result of gradual pressure across the frontier by movement of Turkish troops, Mr. Eddy is to earnestly represent to the Turkish Government this peril to Miss Stone. * * *)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 12, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that the amount of money privately raised and now in his hands amounts to $56,000, for which Mr. Eddy may draw if it is necessary in order to save Miss Stone's life.)

Mr. Hay to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 16, 1901.

(Mr. Hay states that $8,000 additional have been subscribed toward the ransom of Miss Stone, making a total in hand of $64,000.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 23, 1901.

(Mr. Adee states that $2,000 additional have been received, making a total of $66,000 available for the ransom of Miss Stone.)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

No. 112.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, December 4, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information the copy of a letter from Sir Alfred Billiotti, British consul-general at Salonica, to Mr. Young, third secretary of the British embassy at Constantinople. I also have the honor to transmit a copy of the inclosure which was contained in Sir Alfred's letter. This inclosure is the statement of one of the cavasses of the British consulate at Salonica, and is an account of the methods pursued in the release of Colonel Singe, who fell into the hands of brigands in the year 1878.

I have, etc.,

SPENCER EDDY.

[Inclosure.]

Sir Alfred Billiotti to Mr. Young.

SALONICA, *November 18, 1901.*

MY DEAR MR. YOUNG: It had struck me that it might be interesting and perhaps instructive in connection with Miss Stone to get the details of the procedure in the case of Colonel Singe, who was the first prisoner taken by brigands, nearly twenty-

three years ago. I inclose the statements as taken down word by word by Mr. Falanga from our old cavass Hussein. My opinion is that it will be most difficult, if not impossible, to come to terms as to the manner of payment of the ransom and rescuing the prisoners without running the risk of putting faith in the word of the captors. My experience of Turkish brigands in Anatolia, and what I have heard in the cases of Colonel Singe, Mr. Suter, and Mr. Chevalier, is that reliance can be placed in their promises. They have a certain code of honor, and I suppose that Bulgarians will be as faithful as Turks and Greeks in their word.

I heard here from a Bulgarian source that according to all probabilities Miss Stone is on Bulgarian soil, in the house of a Pomak, and that she never moved since her capture nor that she has been kidnapped by Pomaks, but as their houses can not be entered by the Bulgarians (on account of their harems) the Bulgarian brigands may have arranged with some Bulgarian Turks to keep her in concealment. I give the information for what it is worth.

I have seen lately in newspapers a report to the effect that Miss Stone was in the house of a bey in Serres. Although I do not place the slightest value to such a rumor I have, however, written to our agent to make inquiries.

In the last telegram which I received through the embassy (November 5) I was directed to keep the messenger within reach. I have kept him here. This messenger has already been away from his house exactly three weeks to-day. His traveling expenses have been 1 pound Turkish and 3 medjids (silver) his maintenance about P. 10 per diem; in addition to which I suppose he will get some slight remuneration for loss of time. I mention these details in order to enable the United States legation to have an idea of what their outlays may be if the man is retained longer. My dragoman tells me that the messenger has been already asked by his countrymen what he was doing here so long.

I remain, etc., ALFRED BILLIOTTI.

[Subinclosure.—Translation.]

Details concerning the release of Colonel Singe, captured more than twenty years ago by the Greek band of Captain Nico in the district of Caterini, Salonica.

A villager named Tcharghi who, as was later shown, formed part of the same band, presented himself as intermediary between the British consulate and the brigands. After prolonged negotiation it was arranged that 12,000 Turkish pounds should be carried to the brigands at a place fixed by them upon a steep and wooded mountain traversed by paths known to the brigands alone; that if troops were summoned to accompany the ransom they should halt at a point indicated at the base of the mountain, and from there the intermediary, Tcharghi, should accompany the bearers of the money to a point higher up where the brigands would attend him; and, lastly, that the soldiers should give no sign of pursuing the brigands before twenty-four hours had elapsed from the reception of the ransom.

This programme was followed to the letter. One hundred horsemen (soldiers) under the command of Col. Rachid Bey (now general) set out from Caterini with the consul, Mr. Blunt, the dragoman of the consulate, Mr. Brizzo, the cavass Hussein Aga, the intermediary, and four armed men who accompanied the horse which bore the money. At the foot of the mountain, in a small opening, Tcharghi told the soldiers to halt, and with the dragoman, the cavass, the mulazim Hassan Agha, the four men and the horse bearing the money went on foot toward the summit of the mountain, and after half an hour of very difficult climbing he stopped the caravan anew. The brigands had placed sentinels upon the trees a little way above this place of rendezvous in order to be able to spy the movements of the soldiers. After a quarter of an hour of waiting ten brigands came, one after another, from different parts of the forest and surrounded the caravan. Six of them leveled their guns at the troop, and the other four, of whom one was Captain Nico, came nearer to converse. Mr. Brizzo having informed Nico that he was the bearer of the ransom agreed upon, the chief sent a man of his band, who returned a quarter of an hour later with Colonel Singe, escorted by two other brigands. His hands were bound by a cord and he was so overcome with emotion that he recognized nobody and could not speak a word. It was not until after drinking several swallows of cognac that he came to himself.

After verifying the contents of each of the bags containing the 12,000 pounds, which was done by Nico himself, aided by four companions, one of the coins was found with a hole in it and Nico demanded that it should be exchanged, which was done.

During the count the bags which were found correct were carried off one by one by a brigand who disappeared in the forest and reappeared ten minutes afterwards.

This operation lasted about two hours, and when it was ended one of the brigands, having taken Colonel Singe aside, shaved his beard. After which Captain Nico returned to the colonel his gold watch, which he had taken from him, and 250 piastres in money which he had upon him the day of his capture; besides which Captain Nico counted out to him 50 Turkish pounds saying to him that it was the commission which rightfully belonged to him from the ransom.

After this ceremony Captain Nico brought forward two women and a child all muffled up. They were the wife of the intermediary Tcharghi, his married daughter, and a child of the latter, captured a few days before. He said to Mr. Brizzo and his companions:

"Give good heed to what I say. If we perceive within twenty-four hours from now that troops are in pursuit of us these three persons shall be decapitated."

After this brief discourse all the brigands disappeared as by enchantment. The caravan rejoined the soldiers, and all returned together to Caterini. Nico, who did not return to his village until two years later, was killed shortly after his return.

A similar procedure was followed in the case of Mr. Suter, who was captured three years later by another Greek band at Isvoro; as also in the case of Mr. Chevalier, captured about two and a half years ago in the same locality.

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, December 12, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports that he has decided to make another trial to secure Miss Stone's release for $66,000; that the missionary treasurer and dragoman of the legation will leave Constantinople on December 13 for Djumabala, which is near the frontier not far from Rilo, where they will be close to the brigands and will use extreme measures to convince them that they can have only $66,000, but that they can have that immediately; that the exchange of money and prisoners can take place exactly on the frontier, thus obviating foreseen difficulties in regard to this point; that Mr. Washburn, of Robert College, has gone to Sofia, where he will use all of his considerable influence to persuade the brigands to accept the sum offered. * * *)

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

No. 116.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, December 13, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, after obtaining the best advice at my disposal here in Constantinople, I have decided to send Mr. Peet (the missionary treasurer) and Mr. Gargiulo (first dragoman of this legation) to the frontier between Turkey and Bulgaria at a point near the town of Rilo, where, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the brigands have their headquarters.

These two gentlemen leave here this evening and proceed directly to the city of Salonica where they will obtain, through letters from the minister of the interior, the full and entire assistance of the vali of Salonica, who is in charge of that district in which their work will probably be confined. From Salonica they will proceed to Djumabala, where they will establish their headquarters for the time being. They will then come into touch with the brigands, being at a distance of only

ten or twelve hours from the latters' headquarters. Should it seem necessary they will move still closer up to the frontier, and from that point they will endeavor to convince Miss Stone's captors that there is only $66,000 to be paid for her release, and that this sum will be forthcoming directly they decide to accept it.

Messrs. Gargiula and Peet have instructions to gain the trust and good will of the brigands, to treat them frankly and openly, and to arrange that the exchange of the prisoners for the money will take place on the frontier, thus obviating the difficulties which were foreseen some weeks ago when the brigands insisted on receiving the money in Bulgaria, and surrendering the prisoners in Turkey.

Last night and to-day I have had long interviews with Mr. Guéchoff, the Bulgarian diplomatic agent in Constantinople, and have convinced him that we have only $66,000; he has signified his intention of spreading the certainty of this fact throughout Sofia on his own authority by means of letters and telegrams.

Dr. Washburn, of Robert College (who is sometimes known as the "Father of Bulgaria"), has gone to Sofia, and will endeavor, through his influence, to convince those in authority over the brigands that they will gain nothing by waiting longer, that the final amount will be only $66,000 whether it is paid now or next spring, and that the brigands by delaying are only risking the chance of Miss Stone's death, and the consequent loss of the ransom. * * * At the present time I am keeping it a close secret that Mr. Gargiulo and Mr. Peet are leaving this city.

This effort would seem to be the last thing which can be done without an increase of the sum at our disposal. We are not dealing with a case of ordinary brigandage. The whole matter is mixed up with Macedonian and Bulgarian politics, the two causes of Miss Stone's capture being a desire to obtain money from the missionaries for the so-called "sacred cause" and to impress the world with the belief that Turkey has no real power in Macedonia, where the state of affairs is little short of anarchy.

In a conversation with the Dutch minister, Mr. de Weckerlin, the day before yesterday he stated the case very clearly. He said it was a case of fear on all sides. The Bulgarian Government is afraid of the present committee, the present committee is afraid of the old committee, the old committee is afraid of the leaders of the thirty-two brigands who abducted Miss Stone, the leaders of the thirty-two men are afraid of the men themselves, and the men in turn are afraid that they will not get their money for the work they have done and that their superiors will betray them into the hands of the troops. You will readily see from this the extreme difficulty of dealing with the case. There is such a vast number of persons concerned in it and it has become so much an international question that its far-reaching results and the universal distrust engendered render it almost impossible to take any direct line of action and to hold to it.

From the numerous conversations which I have had recently on this subject, with the object of obtaining the best possible advice, it is perfectly evident that the consensus of opinion gives but three possible solutions to the matter:

(1) To pay the full £25,000 and then collect it in the form of indemnity.

(2) To cause the troops to surround the brigands and cause the release by force.

(3) To use coercive measures against Bulgaria, causing them to be responsible for Miss Stone's safety. * * *

I have, however, thinking it to be the wish of the Department not to resort to extreme measures, adopted this plan of sending Messrs. Gargiulo and Peet to the frontier in order to exhaust every effort to settle the matter for the amount now in our possession. Up to the present time I have been unable to take any definite action, as the whole matter has been in the hands of Mr. Dickinson at Sofia; but now that the negotiations at that point have proved fruitless I am using every possible means to arrive at some definite result from this point, acting always on the advice of such of my colleagues as have had a long experience in this country and have profited by it.

I have, etc., SPENCER EDDY.

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

No. 117 A.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, December 15, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that Dr. Washburn arrived this morning from Sofia, where he had gone to endeavor, in a quiet manner, to obtain additional information as to why all efforts for Miss Stone's release have so far been without result.

The Department is doubtless aware that Dr. Washburn's position with reference to Bulgaria is a unique one. He has been for many years the head of Robert College, near Constantinople, in which institution most of Bulgaria's leading men have been educated under his personal supervision. He is a man of great force of character and powerful personal magnetism and seems to hold the affection and esteem of his pupils after their graduation. But his strongest hold on the Bulgarian people is owing to the fact they consider him as the "Father of Bulgaria"—that the present liberty and enlightenment of the country are owing to his teachings and to his molding of the young men of a former generation. Dr. Washburn has been at all times most willing and anxious to render any assistance to the Government of the United States in the work of liberating Miss Stone, but it was impossible for him to go into Bulgaria while Mr. Dickinson was there, and such information as he has received through letters could not, of course, be very full or explicit.

I have now the honor, however, to transmit herewith the copy of an official report which he handed to me this morning on his return from Sofia. A copy of this inclosure has been sent to Mr. Dickinson.

You will see that the facts contained in the first paragraph of Dr. Washburn's report are already known to us. We have always supposed the brigands to be Bulgarian and there is ample evidence to prove that the hand of Saratoff has been at the bottom of this matter. According to my knowledge Boris Saratoff is a young man of 28 years, well educated, of charming manners, and a temperament more or less visionary and fanatical. His object in this case may therefore be either a mistaken sense of patriotism or the pressing need of money.

I have an idea that we shall have more to do with this young man later on, when it comes to the final settlement of the matter.

The second paragraph contains the startling statement that Miss Stone is not now in Bulgaria, nor has she been there. The evidence of this fact, which Dr. Washburn speaks of as being conclusive, is briefly as follows: On his arrival in Sofia he went to the houses of many members of the Government (i. e., the council of state), who had at one time been studying under his direction at Robert College. He talked long and earnestly with each of these men, who, he believes, would be absolutely unable to lie to him. One of his friends took him to a meeting of the council of state, and he remained there for one hour talking to the Bulgarian Government in session. He had interviews with the officer commanding the districts along the frontier and with the heads of the different branches of the police, and these interviews were all with his intimate personal friends—men who are bound to him by feelings of affection, respect, and, perhaps, even fear. * * * In all these interviews and conversations he only received the most emphatic and strong assurances of Bulgaria's absolute innocence of complicity in Miss Stone's abduction, and, furthermore, of the present Government's willingness to do all in their power to assist in her release. Moreover, none of them has any personal fear for her safety were they to resort to any measures, however violent.

That the English and Russian agents at Sofia have been willing and anxious to help Mr. Dickinson I have long been aware through the embassies of these respective Governments here in Constantinople. Unfortunately, there was a slight friction between the Russian agent and Mr. Dickinson, and the English agent believed that his assistance was not required or asked for.

The third paragraph of Dr. Washburn's memorandum is, of course, self-evident, granting the correctness of the hypotheses from which it is drawn.

The fourth paragraph is also a certainty of which there never was any doubt in my mind from the beginning. There seemed to be but little chance of persuading a new and, if I may use the expression, a vain Government to identify itself with a band of robbers and cutthroats and tacitly admit to the civilized world that they had hired such men for acts of brigandage. Moreover, I may add to Dr. Washburn's statement the fact that it is in all quarters thought very doubtful whether the brigands will accept anything short of the £25,000 demanded; and it seems to be the sentiment of all my colleagues that the United States should now obtain the additional £10,000 required and then, naturally, bring a claim of indemnity for the whole sum. * * * That is not exactly my own view, but it is the generally expressed opinion of all the chefs de mission.

The fifth paragraph is and has been evident from the first; and as I have sent Mr. Gargiulo and Mr. Peet to the frontier, I think that in this point our actions coincide with Dr. Washburn's views. The two gentlemen who have undertaken this work willingly and gladly have precisely the knowledge and experience necessary to cause its success. Moreover, great credit is due to them for having been willing to leave their families at Christmas time and go on a mission which is certainly attended with great difficulties, hardships, and perhaps danger.

The sixth paragraph of Dr. Washburn's memorandum contains the only statement of his from which I differ in opinion. Precedent, both in Bulgaria and Turkey, would seem to prove the contrary.

* * * * * * *

I have, etc., SPENCER EDDY.

[Inclosure.]

Memorandum of Miss Stone's case.

[Submitted to Mr. Eddy and Mr. Dickinson confidentially.]

After a careful and exhaustive investigation at Sofia I have reached the following conclusions:

I. Miss Stone was captured in Turkey by a band, mostly Bulgarians, organized for this purpose in Bulgaria by the followers of Saratoff, ex-president of the Macedonian committee.

II. Miss Stone is not now in Bulgaria, and there is no reliable evidence that she has been there since her capture. The evidence to the contrary seems to me to be as conclusive as any negative evidence can be. The Bulgarian Government and the English and Russian diplomatic agents have done everything in their power to secure the release of Miss Stone. The Government has no sympathy with the followers of Saratoff and no fear of them.

III. As Miss Stone is not in Bulgaria, neither the Bulgarian Government nor the Russian can do anything more to effect her release.

IV. There is no hope of her release except by making terms with the brigands and paying a ransom.

V. The negotiations with them will be difficult and perhaps dangerous, and all authorities in Bulgaria agree that they should be confided to some trusty person who knows the languages and the people.

VI. Miss Stone is still alive. After her release, if the brigands can be identified they can be tried and punished wherever they are caught, whether in Turkey or in Bulgaria.

Constantinople, December 15, 1900.

GEORGE WASHBURN.

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, December 26, 1901.

(Mr. Eddy reports favorable news from Messrs. Gargiulo and Peet, the committee sent to Djumabala, stating that they are in close touch with brigands and will leave Salonica on December 27 for an unknown point on the frontier, where a meeting with the most of the leading brigands will take place. Mr. Eddy has every hope of their success.)

Mr. Hay to Mr. Leishman.

No. 93.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 11, 1902.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Eddy's dispatch, No. 117 A, of the 15th ultimo, reporting that Rev. George Washburn, president of Robert College, had just returned to Constantinople from

Sofia, whither he had gone in the hope of being able to lend his aid to effect the release of Miss Stone. With Mr. Eddy's dispatch is a memorandum by Dr. Washburn, giving the conclusions at which he arrived after a careful and exhaustive investigation by him of the case.

Referring to Mr. Eddy's statement that it seems to be the sentiment of all his colleagues that the United States should now obtain the additional £10,000 required by the brigands, I have to say that the Department has not that additional sum, nor is it disposed to advise Miss Stone's friends to raise it, even if they seemed able and willing to do so.

I am, etc., JOHN HAY.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, January 19, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that negotiations have been resumed, and that brigands agree to accept offer, but insist on money being paid in advance, agreeing to surrender captives ten days later; that a letter from Miss Stone states that both she and Madame Tsilka are alive and well, and urge acceptance of brigands' terms; and that, as the committee are of the same opinion, Mr. Leishman has instructed them to use their own judgment and lose no time in making best terms possible.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 129.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, January 20, 1902.

SIR: After many weeks of patient waiting we have finally succeeded in getting into direct communication with the brigands holding Miss Stone captive, who, while agreeing to accept the amount of money at our disposal, insist, as I feared they would, on payment being made in advance. This method of payment, as I have already written you, is not unusual, except the matter of time demanded in this case being much longer, viz, ten days instead of twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

I have already cabled you that the committee were unanimous in recommending the acceptance of the conditions demanded by the brigands; and as it has been my constant endeavor to keep the legation as free as possible from any official connection with the matter of ransom, leaving the settlement entirely in the hands of the committee, who, being familiar with all the details and in direct touch with the brigands, are in much better position to judge whether the brigands will faithfully carry out their agreement, I immediately advised them to lose no time in concluding the best arrangement possible. This action has met with the approval of my colleagues and such men as Dr. Washburn and Dr. Herrick, and I can only trust that it will also meet with yours, and live in hope that the brigands will faithfully carry out their part of the contract.

The money, 14,500 liras, in gold coin, is already on its way in charge of the United States marshal and a guard consisting of two cavasses, two Croats from the Ottoman Bank, and half a dozen soldiers furnished

by the Turkish Government. I provided them with a special car, which will be dropped off the train at a point beyond Serres, about twenty-four hours from Constantinople, where a mounted guard will meet them and escort them to a place selected near the Bulgarian frontier (about two days' ride on horseback), where the money will be turned over to the committee, who in turn will pay it to the brigands in the manner agreed upon; but the exact manner in which this is to be done I am unable to inform you.

I inclose you copy of telegraphic correspondence which will place you more *au courant* of the matter. The word "regret" at having to pay the money in advance and trust the brigands to return the captives later fails to express my feelings, and I shall be on the anxious seat until such time as Miss Stone is actually back with her friends. But while I realize that it was assuming a great risk to approve the recommendation of the committee, I felt that it was the choice of two evils, and I deemed it a much greater risk to refuse, for to decline what I understand to have been practically an ultimatum would have been to practically seal the doom of the prisoners; and although I even deplore the thought, should the brigands fail to carry out their agreement, it would certainly kill the trade of brigandage, as it would be difficult for them to induce people to ever treat with them again. Of course, if precedent counts for anything, there is no great cause for uneasiness, as payment in advance has been conceded in nearly every case in the last twenty years, and even in the English case, while Colonel Singe was released at the time ransom was paid, it was only on condition of substitutes in the shape of the wife, daughter, and grandchild of the intermediary having been furnished, who were retained for forty-eight hours with the threat that if the brigands were pursued by troops or followed by any person, the three substitutes would be decapitated.

I am keeping in as close touch as possible and rendering every aid and assistance, Mr. Gargiulo still remaining with the committee and Mr. Lemmi having gone with the party conveying ransom to arrange all details en route, etc.

Trusting that I may be able to advise you by cable ere this reaches you of a successful termination of this affair,

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. Gargiulo to Mr. Leishman.

[Telegram.]

DJUMA BALA, *January 18, 1902.*

House arrived to-night. Interview with three brigands last night. Agent of brigands with letter from Miss Stone arrived. Very satisfactorily reports as well Miss Stone, Mrs. Tsilka, and baby. Gives bearer full authority to treat with Mr. Leishman for 14,500 liras, full weight. Place for payment of ransom, near Bansko. Time for the delivery of captives, within ten days after payment. Negotiations pending for place of delivery of captives. Agent of brigands will consult captives about place for their delivery. Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka recommend full confidence in agent of brigands. Captives' assumption of all risk of their delivery inclines us to accept brigands' proposition and hasten end. House is confident brigands will release captives in good condition after payment. In view of Miss Stone's message we all think that conditions should be accepted at once. Do you approve?

GARGIULO.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Gargiulo.

[Telegram.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, January 19, 1902.

Trust you will be able to modify demands, but as I have entire confidence in the committee, lose no time in concluding agreement on best terms possible, and advise me when, how, and where you wish money sent.

LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 3.]

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Smith-Lyte, United States marshal.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.
Constantinople, January 20, 1902.

SIR: In accordance with my understanding with Mr. Dickinson, you will please arrange to be at the Oriental Railway station at 7 o'clock this evening prepared to take charge of a large sum of money for the ransom of Miss Stone, which will be delivered by the Ottoman Bank. This money is to be delivered by you to the committee having matter in charge, consisting of Messrs. Peet, House, and Gargiulo, and just as soon as you deliver the money safely into their hands you may consider your duty finished.

I am sending Mr. Lemmi along, who will arrange details and be furnished with ample funds to cover all expenses. A special car will be provided and attached to train leaving for Serres at 8 o'clock. Mr. Dickinson has agreed to furnish you with a cavass, and this, with the legation cavass who accompanies Mr. Lemmi, two Croats from the bank, and half a dozen soldiers furnished by the Ottoman Government, will supply you with a sufficient guard.

In the event of your desiring to communicate with me in case of emergency, Mr. Lemmi is provided with a code and will render you every possible assistance.

I am, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, January 28, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that negotiations have been temporarily interrupted and the committee prevented from paying the ransom, as expected, owing to failure of local authorities to faithfully carry out guaranties given by the Ottoman Government that troops would be held back and negotiations protected; that the brigands became frightened at unusual activity of troops, and, fearing bad faith on the part of the Turkish authorities, disappeared; that it is questionable whether further attempt should be made to treat for ransom on Turkish territory * * *.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, February 3, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that negotiations have been renewed, and the committee reports progress, but that everything is being done to keep this secret for the present. Mr. Leishman is quite hopeful of an early and satisfactory conclusion.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, February 12, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that the ransom has been paid to the brigands, who, it is hoped, will faithfully perform their part of the agreement to return the captives safe.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, February 18, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that although the ten-day period originally mentioned has been exceeded the committee does not attach particular importance to this fact, as at their last meeting with the brigands the time for the delivery of the captives, owing to anticipated difficulties, was made rather elastic. While the delay causes Mr. Leishman some uneasiness, in view of all the circumstances, he sees no immediate cause for alarm. He states that rather difficult conditions were imposed upon the committee, and absolute secrecy demanded under threats of most dire vengeance in case of disclosure; that the length of time demanded was with an object to deliver the captives at some interior point in Turkey. He states that Miss Stone's letters were very clear and explicit, and not only implored that her captors' demands be acceded to, but demanded that the money collected by her friends be paid without question, and that absolute confidence be placed in the brigands.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, February 22, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that word has been received from the brigands requesting the committee not to be uneasy at the delay, which is caused by difficulties beyond their immediate control. * * *)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, February 23, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that he has been advised by the committee that the governor of Serres reports that Miss Stone has been found at a point not named, and is expected to reach Serres on February 24.)

Mr. Hay to Mr. Leishman.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 26, 1902.

(Mr. Hay extends congratulations to Mr. Leishman on the effected release of Miss Stone. * * *)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 143.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, March 1, 1902.

SIR: * * * As already advised by cable, I am very happy to state that our efforts to rescue Miss Stone have proved successful, and she is now safely in the hands of her friends in her old home in Salonica.

Too much praise could not be accorded to Messrs. Gargiulo, Peet, and House for the able and clever manner in which they performed the difficult and, at times, dangerous task assigned to them, and I especially desire to recommend to your consideration Mr. Gargiulo, the intelligent and capable dragoman of this legation, who, although purposely kept in the background for reasons of policy, really commanded the expedition, and through whom the legation conveyed any necessary instructions and advice. I can not speak too highly of his work, and it is all the more creditable when one considers that he is over 60 years of age, and arose from a sick bed to go up into a wild, unsettled country affording but poor and sometimes miserable accommodation, and frequently had to spend eight, ten, and twelve hours a day in the saddle, as there are few roads where carriage travel would be possible.

Mr. Lemmi, the second dragoman, also deserves mention for the creditable and skillful manner in which he performed his part of the work in conveying the ransom and preventing from becoming known the fact of payment having been made when returning with the bags, which had been refilled with lead.

I also wish to take occasion to mention the friendly interest taken in this matter by Sir Nicholas O'Connor, the British ambassador here, and also the interest and assistance rendered us by Mr. Elliott, the English diplomatic agent at Sofia; Mr. McGregor, the consul and, at the early stage of the Stone case, acting as British chargé at Sofia, and Sir Alfred Billiotti, British consul at Salonica, all of whom rendered us valuable assistance and advice; and it would give me great pleasure if you were to intimate to the British Government the gratitude which is felt for their kindly interest and assistance.

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Leishman.

No. 153.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 8, 1902.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch, No. 143, of March 1 last, on the subject of the abduction of Miss Stone.

You will express the grateful appreciation of the President and myself to the persons mentioned in your dispatch for their generous and valuable services in connection with the release of Miss Stone.

I am, etc.,

JOHN HAY.

PASSPORT APPLICATION OF ASSADUR H. KLUDJIAN.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 124.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, January 9, 1902.

SIR: I herewith inclose copies of correspondence with Consul-General Dickinson in regard to application of Assadur H. Kludjian for passport, which I feel compelled to refuse. I also inclose copy of Kludjian's letter dated November 10, 1901, which explains my reasons for declining to grant him desired recognition.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. Kludjian to Mr. Leishman.

ALEXANDRETTA, SYRIA, *November 10, 1901.*

DEAR SIR: I am an Armenian naturalized citizen of the United States of America; lived in the United States since 1889; left the United States in the month of June, 1900; obtained a passport from Washington; came here to end my business relations in Turkey and return to the United States as soon as possible; was quarantined at Beirut; my passport was indorsed by the Turkish Government at Beirut; arrived at this port in August, 1900; was refused admission to this port with my passport; sent with a messenger my letter of recommendation addressed to the United States consul here, which I obtained from the United States consulate at Marseilles, France; was detained at the seashore, guarded by the police, waiting for protection by our representative here; my messenger returned and informed me that the consul was at his summer home, about 8 or 10 miles away from here. I sent my messenger again to the office of the consulate to see if there was not any substitute or an acting officer in his place, but he was refused any interview whatever. Then I sent my messenger again, feeling assured that some one should surely be in the office to look out for the interests of the United States. My messenger came back with the instruction given by the dragoman or interpreter of the consulate that there was no other way but to give up my passport and become a Turkish subject.

I sent my messenger again to the dragoman, begging of him to obtain permission from the Turkish Government for me to remain here for a period of one or two weeks.

No United States representative appeared in my defense. Then I was ordered to go back into the steamer in which I came and was taken here at once. The steamer I sailed from Beirut to this port in was a Turkish one named *Dolma-Baghtché*. The crew and the officers of the steamer belonged to the military.

Fearful of the dreadful feature of things, I had to give up my passport in the boat and land. A few days after my landing I had the opportunity of seeing the United States consul, and he informed me that I was no more an American citizen and advised me not to come around the office, as he was afraid himself.

I left Alexandretta and went to my home, Deurt-Yole, about 18 miles from here. While trying to cut my business relations with my brothers, I was called by the governor of the State of Adana to the State capital, the city of Adana. I went to Adana, and after strict cross-examinations I was asked to furnish bond or go to prison. I furnished bond and was left free under close watch with the condition that I should remain in Adana until I was notified otherwise. I remained in Adana six weeks conditionally, then was cast into the prison of the capital. My imprisonment was six months. During all this period I wished to beg the protection of my adopted and much-loved country, but considering the possible national bitter feeling that might be caused between the two nations, I hesitated to do so; and as there is an Imperial order according to which any person living in Turkey could have the privilege of leaving Turkey under condition of not returning any more, I thought of taking advantage of the same order in the absence of other means.

Now I am in perfect readiness to leave this country for the United States (Boston), where I have received my education, and where I have made my home, practicing medicine, since 1894.

I respectfully present to you a copy of my naturalization paper[a] inclosed herein.

Awaiting your advice, etc.,

A. H. KLUDJIAN.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Dickinson to Mr. Leishman.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Constantinople, January 4, 1902.

SIR: I beg to acknowledge the legation's No. 113 of November 20, 1901, covering a letter from Dr. A. H. Kludjian written from Alexandretta, and asking me to investigate the matter.

I would refer you to Consul Davis's No. 13[a] to the legation, of August 11, 1900, in which he stated that in order to gain admission to this country he (Kludjian) had to renounce his citizenship, but as it appeared from his letter to the legation, which I return herewith, that he was prepared and anxious to leave this country for the United States, in referring the matter to Consul Davis I asked him to have Dr. Kludjian make an application for a passport in proper form, which I would submit to the legation and ask that he be granted a passport.

I now beg to inclose his passport application[a] in duplicate, together with a certificate of citizenship,[a] and to enable him to leave this country for his adopted home I would request you to grant him the necessary passport.

I am, etc.,

CHAS. M. DICKINSON.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Leishman.

No. 108.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 10, 1902.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 124 of the 9th ultimo, reporting that you have refused to grant Assadur H. Kludjian, a former Turkish subject, a passport, the facts of the case, as shown by the inclosures to your dispatch, * * * being as follows:

Kludjian came to this country in 1889, was naturalized in 1895, and granted a passport by this Government May 17, 1900. He went back to Turkey, presented evidence of his American citizenship at the port of Alexandretta, and was refused permission to enter the country because he was an American citizen. He declares that he sent for the American consul, who was away, and that the dragoman of the consulate told him that in order to enter Turkey he must give up his pass-

[a] Not printed.

port and become a Turkish subject. He was ordered back to the steamer on which he had arrived. Under these circumstances he gave up his passport and naturalization certificate and swore allegiance to Turkey. He went about his business, and some six weeks later was cast into prison. Before this he told the consul at Alexandretta that he had been compelled to give up his passport and naturalization certificate, but that he was at heart a good American. He was imprisoned for six months, during which time he did not call upon the agents of this Government for protection, because, so he says, of "the possible national bitter feeling that might cause between the two nations."

It is true that Turkey refuses to recognize the American citizenship of a former Turk who secures naturalization in the United States without Turkish authority; and that when this authority is given it is with the stipulation that the person shall not return to Turkey. Therefore, if a naturalized American citizen of Turkish origin returns to Turkey he may expect arrest and imprisonment or expulsion. The Department's notice stating these facts, now sent to every former subject of Turkey who receives a passport, was not yet, however, issued when the passport was granted in this case, and Dr. Kludjian may have been ignorant of the danger he was incurring by returning to Turkey. It is also true that this Government insists that the laws of Turkey on the subject are contrary to enlightened international policy, are unjust and oppressive; and that this Government protects, so far as it can, Americans, formerly of Turkish allegiance, who gain admission to Turkey.

A right to American protection and a renunciation of American citizenship are incompatible conditions, and Dr. Kludjian's claim to such protection can rest only upon the ground that his renunciation of American citizenship was brought about by duress under threats, and is therefore void.

If the dragoman advised Kludjian to renounce his American citizenship, his acting on that advice does not make his renunciation void; actual duress must be shown. There is nothing to show that he was compelled to abjure his American nationality. He did it for his own convenience.

Your action in refusing him a passport is therefore approved by the Department.

I am, sir, etc., JOHN HAY.

EXCHANGE OF COMPLIMENTS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SULTAN OF TURKEY ON THE RECURRENCE OF THE BAIRAM.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Pera, March 20, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman states that during a private audience following the Kurban Bairam ceremony on the morning of March 20, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan requested that his compliments and feelings of friendship be conveyed to the President of the United States.)

President Roosevelt to the Sultan of Turkey.

[Telegram.]

WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 24, 1902.

I tender Your Majesty cordial felicitations on the recurrence of Bairam.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The Sultan of Turkey to President Roosevelt.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

YILDIZ, *March 25, 1902.*

Very much touched by the felicitations you have been so good as to express to me on the occasion of the Bairam. I return especial thanks.

ABDUL HAMID.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 158.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, March 25, 1902.

SIR: As advised by cable to-day, His Imperial Majesty was exceedingly gratified at the courtesy of the President and sent a special message expressing great pleasure at receiving the President's congratulatory telegram, and mentioned the fact of its being the first message of that character that he had ever received from the head of our Government. I think I am fully warranted in saying that His Majesty was delighted, and that the exchange of courtesies will produce a good effect and have a decided tendency to facilitate business and place us more on the same footing as other great powers, as it can not be denied that matters progress and are frequently settled in a country like this largely by royal favor.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN TURKEY.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Leishman.

No. 143.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 25, 1902.

SIR: I inclose herewith for your information an extract from a letter dated Constantinople, March 24, 1902, from Messrs. J. C. Whittall & Co., the managers for Turkey for the New York Life Insurance Company, to Mr. Joseph J. Hearns, the company's superintendent of agencies, Paris, in relation to the difficulties experienced by the company during the past two years in carrying on its business in the provinces of Turkey, owing to the obstruction and prohibition of the Turkish Government.

Messrs. Whittall & Co.'s letter is one of the inclosures to a letter dated the 29th ultimo from Mr. Hearns to Mr. William E. Ingersoll, the company's general manager for Europe, which was left at the Department on the 14th instant by Mr. John A. McCall, president of the company.

I also inclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Ingersoll to the Department, dated the 17th instant, with four inclosures on the same subject.

The Department would like to receive a report from you upon the subject.

If you think it opportune to do so, you will press upon the Ottoman Government the granting of larger privileges to American insurance companies.

I am, etc., JOHN HAY.

[Inclosure 1.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Hearns.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *March 24, 1902.*

DEAR SIR: * * * You may not be quite au courant of the difficulties which we have experienced during the past two years in carrying on our business in the provinces of Turkey owing to the obstruction and prohibition of the Turkish Government, but Mr. Ingersoll is fully aware of them, and he has done much to assist us; but matters have now reached a stage where vigorous action on the part of the American Government is necessary if the New York Life is to continue to work in Turkey.

According to very old conventions between the Turkish Government and the civilized powers, foreign companies or individuals are to be allowed to transact business in the Turkish Empire with absolute freedom. Until recently we were able to send our canvassers all over Turkey, and our agents in all the provincial towns were able to work unmolested, but about a couple of years ago the Turkish Government, acting on the instigation of the Ottoman Insurance Company to promote their own interest, issued a circular to all the provincial governors to the effect that no insurance agent who was not provided with a permit from the Ottoman Government should be allowed to carry on insurance business, and the circular warns the public not to place any faith or confidence in any agent not possessing a certificate to the effect that the company he represents is authorized by Government license to transact business in Turkey. This circular naturally proved very mischievous, and the difficulties and obstruction our agents encountered were in proportion to the spirit or zeal in which the different governors interpreted their instructions; * * * and in some towns the governors were indifferent; but in many places they absolutely refused to allow our agents to work, and in some instances seized all the company's papers, etc.

At the outset we sought the intervention and protection of the United States minister, and we advised Mr. Ingersoll, and for the last two years we have been constantly in communication with the American legation and also directly with the Ottoman Government. We contend that according to the "capitulations" the Turkish Government has no right to interfere in any way with the operations of the New York Life Insurance Company; nevertheless, we are prepared to take out a license, and an application in due form was made. The Government, however, will not withdraw its circulars nor will it grant us the concession we have applied for, and so far the representations of the legation have been unproductive of any benefit whatever.

We have during this period done some business in the provinces, but always under difficulties; but another circular appears to have been issued quite recently by the Government confirming their previous instructions, and as a result all our provincial agencies are now at a standstill.

Moreover, the Turkish authorities are now refusing to issue passports to our traveling agents, so they are prevented from traveling, and our operations are consequently being further and further restricted and are now confined to the capital and principal seaport towns. The provinces where much business is to be done are practically closed to us, and instead of doing 18,000,000 francs this year we shall be extremely fortunate if we succeed in producing half that amount.

* * * * * * *

We are, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & CO.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Ingersoll to Mr. Hill.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
New York, April 17, 1902.

DEAR SIR: Referring to the kind reception you accorded to our esteemed president, Mr. McCall, and myself on Monday last, and the conversation we had in regard to the annoyances the agents of our company are experiencing in Turkey in consequence of unjust and uncalled-for instructions being issued by the Turkish Government to the governors of the different provinces, since my return to New York I have received additional correspondence in regard to this matter, which I think will be of some interest to you and which I would like to join to the papers we left with you. I inclose the same herewith.

I take this occasion to again thank you for the interest you propose to take in this matter, and I hope that our minister in Constantinople will receive such instructions as will have the desired effect on the Turkish officials.

I am, etc.,

W. E. INGERSOLL,
General Manager for Europe and Resident Executive.

[Subinclosure 1.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Hearns, superintendent of agencies, Paris.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *April 1, 1902.*

SIR: With reference to our letter of the 24th ultimo respecting the obstruction of the Turkish Government, we have now to hand you copies of letters that have been exchanged with the United States minister in this matter.

Trusting the question is engaging your most earnest attention,

We are, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & CO.

P. S.—This prohibition of the Government has reduced our proportion for March to a half million francs, whereas it should have been a million and a half. It is simply disastrous.

[Subinclosure 2.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *March 25, 1902.*

EXCELLENCY: By our several requests presented to this honorable legation we have drawn its attention to the difficulties and vexations of which the representatives of the New York Life Insurance Company are the object on the part of the authorities of the Ottoman provinces. We have furthermore not failed to keep it posted constantly in regard to the steps taken by us at the competent departments, and particularly in regard to the deposit by us at the ministry of commerce and public works of the documents exacted by the law on foreign limited-liability companies, promulgated in 1303 (1887).

The honorable legation has been good enough to address the Ottoman ministry of foreign affairs under date of November 6, 1901, and January 16, 1902. The first of these notes, after having passed through various administrative channels, was at last referred to the council of the ministry of commerce and public works, where it remains without effect since the 14th of January last, and as to the second, it has been decreed to the consulting bureau of the ministry of foreign affairs under date of the 20th of the same month and has not had a better fate than the preceding.

Meanwhile, the situation is becoming worse from day to day, and we receive daily from our agents in the provinces louder and louder complaints, and we hasten to transmit to you herewith two copies of those received from our agents in Sivas, Amasia, and Yuzgat. Your excellency will see from their contents that * * * the authorities * * * no longer content themselves with publications putting

soi-disant the public on their guard against foreign insurances, but they have come to acts by threats and seizing the papers and documents of the company.

Your excellancy will understand that this situation is no longer tolerable, that it will have for effect not only to annihilate completely our transactions in Turkey and to gravely injure our credit and reputation, but further to put American enterprises in this country at the mercy of the caprice and arbitrament of any police agent, which is of the highest gravity.

In bringing the foregoing to the attention of this honorable legation, we beg your excellency to be good enough to urgently take such measures as you shall judge necessary to put a stop without delay to the persecutions of which our company is the object, and to have accorded to our company the liberty of carrying on its operations, to which it has right by virtue of the treaties and capitulations in force.

We have, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & Co.

[Subinclosure 3.]

Mr. Leishman to Messrs. Whittall & Co.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, March 27, 1902.

GENTLEMEN: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of March 25, with inclosures, and in reply I deem it wise to advise you to take up the question on broad lines of establishing the New York Life Insurance Company on a proper basis in the Ottoman Empire in preference to raising questions in individual cases, for once the great question is settled the small ones will disappear, and until that is done I fear you are apt to experience more or less trouble and annoyance.

All sovereign governments enjoy the right to frame proper laws for the protection of their citizens and commerce, and unless you can show that American insurance companies are being discriminated against, or that the laws with which they are asked to comply are unjust and illegal, there is very little hope of the legation being able to render you any material assistance, although I am most anxious and willing to do anything in my power to aid and protect any American interest. I would suggest that you carry out the intention indicated in one of your former letters of sending one of your firm to see me in order that I may be made acquainted with the real cause of the troubles, and what steps you deem necessary in order to correct same.

I am, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Subinclosure 4.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *April 1, 1902.*

SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's dispatch of the 27th ultimo, and to express our thanks for your excellency's kind attention to the question of the obstruction of the Ottoman Government toward the New York Life Insurance Company.

The New York Life is quite prepared to conform to any reasonable regulation which the Turkish Government might impose before granting a concession to work in Turkey, and as a matter of fact an application has been made in conformity with the usual procedure, and this is, we believe, within the knowledge of the legation, but the Turkish Government does not appear to have taken any steps toward granting the concession, nor is there any indication to lead one to hope that a concession will ever be granted.

We would respectfully solicit your excellency's kind assistance in urging the Turkish authorities to give our application their prompt attention, as we are certain that without diplomatic intervention the authorities will take no action in the matter. In the meantime we contend that in view of the capitulations which accord freedom of commerce to foreign individuals and companies in the Turkish Empire the Government has no right to seize documents belonging to the New York Life, or to hinder its agents in the performance of their duties.

We are of opinion that the United States legation should take an early opportunity of protesting to the Sublime Porte and to the Palace against the arbitrary and unwar-

ranted obstruction that is being caused to the agents of the New York Life, and to demand that they shall not be interfered with in any way in the future.

These difficulties have been going on for over two years, and unless your excellency is able to get them removed the operations of the New York Life in Turkey will be reduced to a very serious extent. We maintain that this is a case where the Turkish Government is not only violating its treaties, but is also showing its ill-will toward the United States by refusing to grant a concession when applied for, and we claim on behalf of the New York Life that energetic action should be taken by the legation to obtain the freedom of our business to which we are entitled. The Government, in reply to our remonstrances, states that our agents are not allowed to work in the provinces because the New York Life is not registered in Turkey, and when we apply for registration they decline to grant it. Surely this is a position of affairs which merits the earnest attention of the United States Government.

This is the basis of our complaint, and the instances of persecution to which we drew the attention of your excellency in our last were given as proofs of our case.

It was with the object of explaining the whole position to your excellency that we solicited the interview which was kindly afforded to Mr. Chirinian, as this gentleman has been doing the needful on our behalf with the Turkish authorities, and is au courant of the whole question.

If your excellency is still desirous of interviewing either Mr. Chirinian or a member of our firm it will give us pleasure to accede to such a request, but we trust we have stated our case sufficiently clearly to enable your excellency to take immediate and energetic action to remedy a state of affairs which has become intolerable, is causing serious prejudice to American interests, and is in violation of treaty rights.

We have, etc.,

J. M. WHITTALL & Co.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 210.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, June 10, 1902.

SIR: I have delayed answering your dispatch No. 143, of April 25, in regard to the New York Life Insurance Company matter, hoping to be able to give you some definite information, but unfortunately the matter is still in abeyance, with comparatively little hope of an immediate settlement.

The letters of Messrs. Whittall & Co., managers for Turkey for the New York Life Insurance Company, are apt to create an erroneous impression, as they rather lead one to believe that an intentional discrimination exists against American insurance companies, and especially against the New York Life. This is not the case, as the trouble is general, and other foreign companies suffer equally; but although the matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention to the Ottoman Government during the past few years, a number of the ambassadors going to the extent of making a sort of joint representation, nothing ever came of it, and as far as I can see, the case is practically being left to us to push; but as I have failed to discover the slightest indication on the part of the Ottoman Government to discriminate particularly against American insurance companies, I have not felt warranted in taking any stronger measures than those indicated in copy of correspondence herewith inclosed, followed up, of course, with frequent personal representations when visiting the grand vizier or minister for foreign affairs, which will be continued on same lines unless instructed by you to the contrary. As intimated to Messrs. Whittall & Co., I believe it is a matter that should be followed up in a regular business way by the life insurance companies with what assistance the legations can properly extend, rather than one calling for diplomatic action.

Although a natural tendency may exist to protect Ottoman companies, the results of my investigations rather lead me to believe that the trouble arises principally from a well-intentioned effort on the part of the Ottoman Government to properly protect their citizens on the same lines adopted by other European countries; but the laws have only been partially and not very wisely framed, owing to imperfect knowledge of insurance matters.

Owing to the peculiar manner of conducting affairs in this country, little or no difficulty is experienced by insurance companies in conducting their business in large cities like Constantinople, Smyrna, etc., the trouble commencing generally when they attempt to prosecute their business in the interior; but whether this comes from the fact that unusual liberties are granted in Constantinople and several other large seaboard cities (where even the natives are exempted from certain taxes that are exacted in the interior), coupled with the fact that the agents in these places are of a superior class and generally foreigners, while the subagents throughout the country are generally natives, some of whom may have practiced frauds in time past, or whether it arises from the fact that the Ottoman Government feels that it can enforce its laws in the interior with less friction and less interference on the part of the embassies and the legations, both officially and officiously, I am unable to state; but I rather hold to the opinion that the trouble arises principally from the fact that conflicting and inoperative measures have been adopted which are difficult to correct.

According to the Ottoman law of 1303 (1887) in regard to foreign anonymous companies carrying on business in the Turkish Empire such companies must—

I. Submit to the imperial department of commerce and public works a certified copy and translation of the statutes of the company, so that the Imperial Government, before granting permission to such companies to carry on business, may be sure that the company has nothing against public order and morality.

II. Such companies must elect domicile in Turkey and have a responsible agent, so that if they should have any disputes with Ottoman subjects, the latter may have the opportunity to bring action against such companies in the mixed Ottoman tribunals.

III. In the case of insurance companies, however, the department of commerce and public works seems to demand—I think the condition is put down verbally—that insurance companies over and above the said two conditions deposit in Turkey, stocks, cash, or other value, or be guaranteed by an institution like the Ottoman Bank, so that if there should be any action against the companies, and in case such companies be condemned to pay any sums to Ottoman subjects, the courts and Ottoman authorities may be in a position to execute such judgments. This they call the "fonds de garantie," and they argue that in France, Germany, Switzerland, etc., no foreign company is allowed to carry on insurance work without such "fonds de garantie," or before the company has acquired real property of some value. This third condition is not in the law. A comparatively small investment in real estate or bonds would no doubt satisfy the Ottoman Government, and I feel quite satisfied that with a little patience, coupled with determined efforts and a liberal spirit on the part of the insurance companies, the difficulty can be adjusted.

I am informed that the agents of the foreign insurance companies

are contemplating taking joint action, and further, that one of the foreign companies (l'Union de Paris) even went so far as to agree to the third condition, not yet embodied in the law, but were immediately confronted with other conditions to which they were not willing to agree, and from the best information I can obtain the department of commerce and public works, which has charge of insurance matters, is still floundering around trying to frame a new law to cover conditions of which they evidently have a very imperfect knowledge.

In one of Messrs. Whittall's letters they express the opinion that the trouble arises from an effort to protect the Ottoman Insurance Company. There may be some slight foundations for this suspicion owing to the fact that the lawyer who drew up the papers for the Ottoman company has frequently been consulted by the Government; but the company itself is rather a small affair and deals principally in fire insurance, and consequently I am not inclined to credit them with any great amount of influence.

I will continue to do everything in my power to further the interests of the New York Life Insurance Company, but under present condition I do not deem it advisable to press the matter too hard or too far.

Trusting above will furnish you with all the information desired, I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. Leishman to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 71.] UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Constantinople, January 31, 1902.

EXCELLENCY: I respectfully beg leave to call your excellency's attention to the fact that despite the several protests made by this legation against the restraint placed upon American insurance companies, and the obstacles and troubles thrown in their way in order to prevent them from prosecuting their business throughout the Ottoman Empire in accordance with their rights and privileges guaranteed by the treaties, the trouble continues to exist as evidenced by the complaint lodged by the New York Life Insurance Company, copy of which is herewith attached, and I venture to hope that your excellency will cause the necessary steps to be taken to promptly correct the trouble recited.

The New York Life Insurance Company is one of the largest and most responsible and reliable institutions of the kind in the world, amply able to comply with any reasonable regulation introduced by any foreign government for the protection of the interests of its citizens, and have even been admitted in both Germany and Switzerland, where the laws governing insurance companies are unusually severe; and if there exists any formality to which they have not complied, I would be pleased to be advised in order that they may be notified to comply with any proper rules and regulations that may exist; and as the delay in correcting above-mentioned trouble is causing severe loss and prestige to an American instituton of high standing and merit, I trust your excellency will cause such action to be taken as will immediately remedy the existing trouble.

I take this occasion, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Leishman to Messrs. Whittall & Co.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Constantinople, April 3, 1902.

GENTLEMEN: Replying to your letter [a] of April 1, without being more fully informed as to the exact status of your case it would be impossible for me to take any action

[a] Printed, ante, page 1029.

other than what has already been taken, and I am at somewhat of a loss to understand the mention you make in your letter of an interview which you state Mr. Chirinian had with me, for although I advised you that I would be pleased to accord an interview to the gentleman mentioned or one of your firm, I have never had the pleasure of meeting any of your representatives.

As advised in my previous note, unless you can clearly show that American insurence companies are being officially discriminated against or that the insurance laws in force in the Ottoman Empire are unjust and improper, it would be difficult for the legation to interfere; and if the latter is the only cause of complaint, I would strongly recommend that the New York Life Insurance Company take the matter up in the same careful and thorough manner which they pursued when correcting the trouble which formerly existed in Germany and Switzerland, in which they were assisted by the United States Government, which finally resulted in their being reestablished in these countries on a basis which was entirely satisfactory to all parties concerned.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 3.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *April 14, 1902.*

SIR: With reference to the conversation which our Mr. William Whittall and Mr. Chirinian had with your excellency a few days ago, we have now the honor to state, as already mentioned in our letter of the 1st of April, that the New York Life is prepared to conform to the laws of this country respecting insurance companies, and on the 6th of September, 1900, we deposited with the Ottoman Government an application for registration. This application was signed by the direction-general for Europe of the New York Life, and it was accompanied by a copy of the statutes of the company duly legalized at your legation, and the company also accepted legal domicile in Turkey.

The requirements of the law of the year 1303 (1887) were thus duly complied with, but notwithstanding all the efforts we have made, and despite the representations made from time to time by the legation of the United States, the Ottoman Government will not grant us the authorization.

We repeat, the Ottoman Government has no right under the capitulations to interfere in any way with the operations of the New York Life in any part of Turkey, but although we are entitled to this freedom in our business, we have, nevertheless, as mentioned above, in order to be agreeable to the Government, consented to abide by the laws of the country, and the required documents were signed eighteen months ago, but instead of granting the permit the persecution of our agents and the obstruction is on the increase.

In accordance with the promise expressed by your excellency we venture to hope that the legation will now be able to take up the question with energy and support the application we have made to the Government and induce them to grant us the authorization without further delay.

We should mention that the New York Life is being discriminated against, inasmuch as the Ottoman Insurance Company meets with no obstacles in its operations.

We have no doubt the New York Life would send one of its officers here to carry through the negotiations as your excellency suggested, if it were necessary, but we do not consider that the question has reached such a stage. We are of opinion that at the present moment the legation alone is able to clear up the situation and prepare the way for the final settlement of the question.

We solicit your excellency's active intervention in this matter in order to put an end to a state of affairs which is seriously detrimental to American interests in general and to the New York Life in particular.

We have, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & CO.

[Inclosure 4.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *May 23, 1902.*

SIR: With reference to the letter we had the honor of addressing your excellency on the 14th of April respecting the obstruction of the Turkish Government toward

the New York Life Insurance Company, we now take the liberty of inquiring whether, in conformity with the promise expressed, your excellency has been able to take the necessary steps for obtaining an early cessation of the illegal actions of the Ottoman Government.

We consider the matter is of such great importance as to warrant us urging upon your excellency on behalf of our principals, the New York Life Insurance Company, to use every means at your excellency's disposal to bring about a solution of the question as early as possible, inasmuch as the difficulties are increasing and are causing very serious prejudice to the company's business in Turkey.

We shall be glad to learn what result your excellency's representations have had, and, needless to say, we are at your excellency's disposal for any information that might be required.

We, have, etc., J. W. WHITTALL & Co.

[Inclosure 5.]

Mr. Leishman to the minister for foreign affairs.

No. 107.] UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Constantinople, May 14, 1902.

EXCELLENCY: Referring to the legation's note No. 71, of January 31 last, in regard to the New York Life Insurance Company, I beg to inclose herewith a copy of a letter from Messrs. J. W. Whittall & Co., agents in Turkey for said company, in which they claim to have complied with all the rules and regulations in force; and consequently I trust that your excellency will cause the necessary orders to be issued at once permitting them to conduct their business throughout the Ottoman Empire without further molestation.

I take, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 6.]

Extract from a note sent by Mr. Leishman to the minister for foreign affairs concerning the New York Life Insurance Company.

No. 115.] UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Constantinople, May 24, 1902.

Another matter which is causing considerable trouble and loss of business to important American interests is the difficulties thrown in the way of the New York Life Insurance Company in the prosecution of their legitimate business throughout the Ottoman Empire. The standing and financial responsibility of this company is undoubted, as it is recognized the world over as being one of the largest and most reputable institutions of the kind existing; but notwithstanding the report furnished you from Messrs. Whittall & Co., managers for Turkey for the New York Life Insurance Company, stating that they have offered to comply with all the conditions of the existing Ottoman insurance laws, their agents throughout the country continue to meet with annoyance and petty obstruction, and I must ask that the trouble be promptly remedied.

[Inclosure 7.]

Mr. Leishman to Messrs. Whittall & Co.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Constantinople, May 28, 1902.

GENTLEMEN: Replying to your letter of May 23, I beg to state that in accordance with our understanding I presented a copy of the paper which you sent me to the Porte, coupled with the request that the matter be at once investigated and that the difficulties and obstacles which have been thrown in the way of foreign insurance companies be removed.

It seems to me that outside of the general difficulty of getting anything settled, owing to the present manner of conducting affairs and the consequent congestion of all business, the greatest trouble seems to lie in the effort of the Ottoman Govern-

ment to frame an insurance law for the protection of the interests of their subjects somewhat on the line adopted by other European nations, without having properly considered the problem or the difference in existing conditions, rather than with an idea of discriminating against the New York Life Insurance Company, as the trouble seems to be general, although you may be experiencing more difficulties than others owing to greater activity on the part of your agents. As no evidence has been submitted that would show any special discrimination against American interests, I can only continue to bring what pressure and influence I can properly bring to bear to assist you in your efforts to secure a fair and equitable adjustment of the present difficulties, and as you have already evidenced your willingness to comply with the Ottoman insurance laws, I have so informed the minister of foreign affairs and insisted on proper authority being given you to prosecute your business throughout the Ottoman Empire without further let or hindrance, and will be only too happy to do anything further in my power to assist the New York Life Insurance Company in its efforts to secure a fair and prompt settlement of the existing troubles.

I am, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 8.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *June 5, 1902.*

SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's dispatch of the 28th ultimo, and beg to tender our thanks for the further steps your excellency has taken to remove the obstruction we are exposed to.

We have deemed it expedient, now that the Ottoman Government is more or less occupied with the question, to protest formally against their action, and we have accordingly served a protest, as per inclosed copy, through the consulate of the United States, and we beg your excellency will give this protest any support that may be necessary.

We take due note of your excellency's remarks respecting the apparent difficulty of the Ottoman Government to frame an insurance law, but we take the liberty of pointing out to your excellency that that fact does not, in our humble opinion, justify the action of the Ottoman Government in violating its treaties and causing serious prejudice to American interests, for we respectfully maintain that under the capitulations the Ottoman Government has no right to interfere in our business as they have done.

The regulations which the Ottoman Government framed in the year 1887 (1303) respecting joint-stock companies were not, as your excellency is doubtless aware, accepted by the foreign powers, inasmuch as they were based on a principle which constituted an encroachment on the liberties of commerce.

The Ottoman Government should frame these regulations in such a shape as to make them admissible by the powers, but pending the solution of this question the Government should be requested to respect its treaties, and no doubt a satisfactory modus operandi could be arranged until the regulations are framed and accepted by the powers.

Unless some arrangement of this nature is made or the Government can be made to desist from the present measures of persecution, there will be no change in the situation for years to come, and the troubles will become even more acute, for, as your excellency correctly remarks, the congestion of all business is such as to make it difficult, it might be said impossible, to get anything settled.

We trust your excellency will continue to adopt energetic measures to obtain for the New York Life Insurance Company that freedom in its operations in Turkey to which it is unquestionably entitled by treaty.

We have, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & CO.

[Inclosure 9.]

Mr. Leishman to Messrs. Whittall & Co.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Constantinople, June 10, 1902.

GENTLEMEN: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of June 5, inclosing copy of the protest which you have served upon the Ottoman Government

through the consulate-general, which had previously been submitted to me by Mr. Schmavonian, and to which I had suggested making some slight alteration in order to emphasize the willingness which you had already evidenced to comply with the Ottoman insurance laws now in force; but Mr. Schmavonian explained to me that your lawyer had purposely left the matter a little vague.

I note your remark that you do not consider that the trouble arising from the Ottoman Government's effort to frame a proper insurance law justifying the action of which you complain, and am quite of the same opinion. Under existing circumstances, with which you are fully acquainted, it is rather difficult to move very rapidly, and the fact that no special discrimination exists against American companies prevents taking measures which might otherwise be resorted to; and while the fact which you state in regard to the European powers never having accepted the Ottoman insurance laws of 1887 (1303) is an open secret, and some of them were going so far as to file a protest, nothing further was done and the matter has been allowed to rest.

With the assurance that I will always hold myself in readiness to render you any assistance in my power to aid you in securing a satisfactory adjustment of the present difficulty, and with the hope that your protest may have a beneficial result, I am, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 218.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, July 1, 1902.

SIR: Referring further to my dispatch No. 210 of June 10, in regard to the case of the New York Life Insurance Company, there is undoubtedly a strong undercurrent of prejudice and feeling against all things foreign existing at all times, and occasionally a wave of ill-disguised antagonism sweeps over the country, as at the present time, which somewhat resembles a suppressed Boxer movement. But notwithstanding this feeling I am quite of the opinion that if the representatives of the foreign insurance companies get together and make some reasonable concessions the existing trouble can be adjusted, and as explained to Messrs. Whittall & Co., I believe it would be a wise and politic move on the part of the New York Life Insurance Company if they were the first to make the necessary concessions which I am inclined to believe will sooner or later be made by one or all.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Hill to Mr. Leishman.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 9, 1902.

(Mr. Hill states that it is represented by the New York Life Insurance Company that on May 26, six policies were sent by the Ottoman Bank by registered mail to their agency in Tchoroun for collection and the same seized by the Turkish postal officials; that the bank protested, and the officials' reply was that the action was taken by order of the minister of police, who had forbidden insurance companies working in Turkey if they have not fulfilled the formalities required by the Government.

Mr. Leishman is directed to exercise good offices in behalf of the company and to investigate and report what further formalities must be complied with by it.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, July 11, 1902.

(Replying to Department's telegram of July 9, Mr. Leishman reports that the matter referred to had already received his attention and that a demand has been made for the surrender of the package; that he will continue to use good offices in behalf of the company, and that the origin of the trouble is fully explained in his dispatches Nos. 210 and 218.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 258.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 26, 1902.

SIR: I beg to inclose herewith copy of recent correspondence with Messrs. Whittall & Co., managers for Turkey of the New York Life Insurance, which is self-explanatory.

For your further information I might add that no possible doubt can exist about the fact that many things are tolerated in the large cities, especially in the capital, that are positively prohibited throughout the country, as the citizens of the large capitals are even relieved of certain taxes and enjoy exemption from military service.

There is no law or even a good reason that I know of for the condition of affairs, but it exists nevertheless. The Department is no doubt aware that Ottoman subjects generally are not permitted to move from place to place without a special permit, as the present government seems to object to free travel and intercourse, and this is particularly the case with Armenians, from whose ranks the subagents are generally recruited on account of their superior business qualities, but this is, unfortunately, a class that continues to rest under suspicion of plotting against Turkish rule, and it is quite within the range of probabilities that this may be the immediate cause of existing troubles.

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *August 8, 1902.*

SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's letters of the 22d and 24th ultimo, and to express our thanks for the steps your excellency took with regard to the seizure of a packet of policies. We have not yet heard from our agent whether he has obtained possession of the documents.

We venture to hope that your excellency has been equally successful in respect to the representations which the legation would doubtless make to the Ottoman Government regarding the imprisonment of our agent at Kirtchovo.

With regard to the remark made in your dispatch of the 24th ultimo that the "general question must necessarily rest largely in the hands of the insurance companies who must prosecute the matter before the proper officials," we beg to state that we have taken such measures as were necessary. We have complied with the required formalities, and we have done all in our power to arrive at a solution of the uestion, but we can obtain no response of any nature from the Ottoman Govern-

ment, and we appear to have arrived at a deadlock which only energetic diplomatic action can remove.

Your excellency is aware that a demand for a concession or registration was duly made to the Ottoman Government by the New York Life Insurance Company, notwithstanding the fact that in virtue of the "capitulations" it is unnecessary for an insurance company to obtain permission from the Ottoman Government to do business in Turkey. In this contention we are not only supported by legal authorities, but this is also the view taken by other foreign missions. And were it otherwise, why does the Ottomen Government tolerate the 40 or 50 insurance companies which are established in its capital and many other cities of the Empire? Were an attempt make by the Turks to close the offices of the many English or other companies in those cities, we are convinced the British, or other Government, would not tolerate such a step.

If, therefore, we have a legitimate right to operate in these principal cities, there can be no restriction to our carrying our operations into the provinces.

It has been stated that the trouble arises principally from a well-intentioned effort on the part of the Ottoman Government to protect its subjects, but apart from the recognized and indisputable fact that all this trouble originated from a desire to protect and promote the interests of the Ottoman Insurance Company, anyone conversant with the politics of Turkey will confirm us in our assertion that the subsequent course adopted by the government is but the accomplishment of a deliberate policy of oppression and persecution to oppose any western enterprise—and there are numerous instances, doubtless within the knowledge of your excellency, in support of this fact.

If the Government had any good intentions in the matter they have had numerous opportunities of showing their sincerity by affording facilities for a settlement of the question rather than taking every available opportunity for practicing their persecution and oppression, such as imprisonment of agents, violation of postal correspondence, seizure of documents, and interference in operations.

As far as we can see we have no further means at our disposal of prosecuting the matter ourselves, inasmuch as no attention appears to be paid to the communications we make to the Government, and it is our conviction and that of our legal advisers, that only a firm pressure on the part of the American Government will induce the Turks to change their attitude and desist from their arbitrary procedure.

If your excellency can suggest any course that the New York Life should adopt we are certain they will take any steps that may be indicated, for, while maintaining the principle of liberty, the company has repeatedly expressed its willingness to conform to any reasonable regulations.

It should be borne in mind, however, that it is not possible for us to negotiate direct with the Ottoman Government in the same way as the company did in Switzerland or Prussia, inasmuch as transactions with the Ottoman Government are so different from European methods, and in questions of this nature only diplomatic intervention is efficacious.

We understand this matter has recently been discussed by the Turkish departments, and it is rumored that, apparently as a result of the impotence shown by the foreign missions in the protection of their subjects and companies, more stringent measures are to be taken to prohibit any insurance business in the province.

We would respectfully suggest that your excellency should bring the matter to the notice of the Sultan, pointing out to His Majesty the prejudice that is being caused to American interests and solicitating a cessation of these persecutive measures; for, unless His Majesty can be induced to give whatever instructions may be necessary, the Sublime Porte and other departments of state will continue to treat our diplomatic representations with the same contempt as they have done during the past two and a half years.

Trusting your excellency will protect American interests by taking energetic action in this important matter,

We have, etc., J. W. WHITTALL & Co.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *August 13, 1902.*

SIR: With reference to the letter we had the honor of addressing your excellency on the 8th instant we now beg to forward you copy of a letter we have received from one of our traveling agents, from which your excellency will observe that our

prediction that the Government contemplated renewing with greater energy their persecution is confirmed.

Our agent draws our attention to the very insolent way in which the mutessarif of Kutahia notified him that he would not be allowed to transact any business.

We feel sure your excellency will not allow a respectable and important American company like the New York Life to be gratuitously aspersed and interfered with in this manner, and we claim, on behalf of our principals, the protection and intervention of your excellency to repress these arbitrary and illegitimate interferences in our business.

We claim that liberty of action to which the New York Life is indisputably entitled in the Turkish Empire and which for nearly twenty years the company enjoyed.

We can not believe that the United States Government will allow American interests to be thus prejudiced without justification, and we hope your excellency will immediately adopt urgent and energetic measures to suppress this intolerable and degrading state of affairs.

We await to hear what action your excellency has taken in the matter in order that we should acquaint our principals, the New York Life Insurance Company.

We have, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & Co.

[Inclosure 3.]

Mr. Leishman to Messrs. Whittall & Co.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 25, 1902.

GENTLEMEN: Referring to your communications of August 8 and 13, as the package of policies seized at Tchorum have since been surrendered to your agent, no further reply on this point is necessary.

In regard to the general question, I can only again refer you to my previous communications on this subject, and to add that the legation does not feel warranted in pursuing a more aggressive course in the absence of any evidence showing that special discrimination exists against American insurance companies.

I am not prepared to dispute the statement which you make in regard to the forty or fifty foreign insurance companies being tolerated to prosecute their business in the large capitals, but this fact would not necessarily guarantee any right to operate throughout the provinces, as it is hardly necessary to call the attention of old and experienced residents like the Whittall family to the fact that many things are tolerated in the large cities in the Ottoman Empire that are absolutely forbidden and denied in the provinces.

If other foreign missions view the matter as indicated in your letter of August 8, it would seem to me wise were the other foreign insurance companies to petition their ambassadors to address energetic notes to the Sublime Porte, with a view of forcing a settlement of the troublesome question, having little doubt about the willingness of my Government to authorize me to send in an identic note. But under present conditions I do not feel warranted in attempting to force matters, although I shall continue to use every effort to secure the proper recognition of American insurance companies and insist upon their being granted the same rights and privileges accorded similar institutions of other nations.

If this line of action is contrary to your ideas I would suggest that you report the matter to your principals, the New York Life Insurance Company, who can, if they so desire, take the matter up direct with the Department of State at Washington.

I am, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 272.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 7, 1902.

SIR: I beg to inclose herewith for your information copy of further correspondence with the agents of the New York Life Insurance Company in regard to the difficulties encountered in prosecuting their business in the Turkish provinces.

This matter has received the careful and energetic attention of the legation for months past, and every proper effort has been made to induce the Sublime Porte to adjust the differences with the insurance companies, but so far without any actual results, although the Porte claims to have the matter under advisement and promises to endeavor to arrange existing trouble shortly.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1]

Messrs. Whittall & Co. to Mr. Leishman.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *September 5, 1902.*

SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 25th ultimo, and now beg to thank your excellency for having caused the surrender of the policies which were seized by the Ottoman authorities.

We regret to notice your excellency is not disposed to act more energetically for protecting the New York Life against the aggressive measures pursued by the Ottoman Government in contravention of its treaties.

Unfortunately, the other insurance companies in Turkey have not met with difficulties to the same extent as the New York Life, and your excellency is evidently unaware that there are many English fire-insurance companies doing business in the provinces without being interferred with, in fact in towns where the New York Life has met with obstruction. The necessity has therefore not arisen for the other companies to petition their respective ambassadors, who would probably be unwilling to take any action in the matter unless they had cause for complaint.

We are, moreover, informed that several companies some years ago obtained permits from the Ottoman Government, one of which was the "Aachen and München."

Under all the circumstances, in the opinion of our legal advisers and ourselves, the difficulties which the New York Life has experienced fully justify the American Government taking stronger measures than it has done.

We have, etc.,

J. W. WHITTALL & CO.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Leishman to Messrs. Whittall & Co.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 7, 1902.

GENTLEMEN: Replying to your communication of September 5, the legation notes the statement which you make in regard to fire insurance companies, which is quite in accord with the information developed during progress of the investigation, but evidently the Ottoman Government, for reasons of its own, has not as yet determined to take any repressive action against this class of insurance companies, and the legation has no knowledge of any American fire insurance companies being represented in Turkey.

The legation has and will continue to press the Porte energetically to adjust the pending difficulties with American life insurance companies, but in absence of evidence tending to show that particular discrimination exists against American companies, I do not feel warranted in taking more aggressive measures without special instructions from my Government.

I am, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

No. 238.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 20, 1902.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Leishman's No. 258 of the 26th ultimo, regarding the case of the New York Life Insur-

ance Company. His letter of August 8 to Messrs. J. W. Whittall & Co., managers for Turkey of the said company, is approved by the Department.

I am, etc.,

ALVEY A. ADEE,
Acting Secretary.

PROTECTION OF CUBAN INTERESTS BY UNITED STATES CONSULS.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 209.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, June 9, 1902.

SIR: Referring to your telegraphic instruction[a] of May 24 last, with reference to the request of the Cuban Government that the United States consuls throughout the Ottoman Empire should represent the interests of Cuba until such time as the latter nation should be in a position to appoint its own representatives, I have now the honor to inclose herewith for your information a copy of a note which I addressed to the Ottoman Government immediately upon receipt of the above-mentioned telegram, and the copy of a second note which I feel obliged to transmit to the Porte to-day. During the intervening two weeks between the transmittal of my first note and of my second I have several times called upon the minister for foreign affairs, and during my interviews with him I have urged a prompt decision in regard to this matter. Each time I have been assured that it would be settled satisfactorily and immediately.

You will readily perceive from this example of the method of treating a very simple request how extremely difficult it is becoming to cause any action to be taken on any of the numerous cases which have been pending for a very long period. The Imperial Government shows a disposition to inactivity which is as unaccountable as it is annoying. This "do-nothing" policy is not confined alone to the United States, as I am aware that at least one of my colleagues has suffered from the same cause. * * *

I shall lose no time in telegraphing the reply of the Imperial Government directly it is received.

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. Leishman to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 113.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, May 26, 1902.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to inform you that I have this day received telegraphic instructions from my Government to the effect that the President of Cuba has requested the United States Government to cause its consular officers throughout the Turkish Empire to be authorized to use their good offices in representation of the interests of Cuba and its citizens until Cuban consuls shall have been appointed.

I have therefore the honor to request that this necessary permission be granted, and that your excellency will be good enough to notify me within as short a space of time as possible concerning the action taken by the Imperial Government in this matter, as it is necessary that I should at once inform my Government by telegraph.

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

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[a] Printed, page 6.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Leishman to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 119.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES;
Constantinople, June 9, 1902.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: On May 24 last I had the honor to inform you that I had received telegraphic instructions from my Government to request the Imperial Government to allow the United States consuls throughout the Ottoman Empire to act for Cubans and for Cuban interests until such time as the latter country should be able to appoint their own representatives.

Your excellency will observe that since the transmittal of my note to you more than two weeks have elapsed, and as the urgency of the matter was sufficiently evinced to you at the time, I have now the honor to request that an immediate reply may be sent to me, stating whether or not the Imperial Government is willing to accede to the desire of the Cuban Government.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

No. 281.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 17, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have this day had an interview with the minister for foreign affairs. In the course of this interview I brought to his notice the request of the Cuban Government that the American representatives throughout the Ottoman Empire should take charge of Cubans and of Cuban interests until such time as the Cuban Government should be in a position to appoint representatives of their own. * * *

The minister for foreign affairs informed me that the permission to assume protection of Cubans and Cuban interests throughout the Empire was a matter for the personal consideration of the Sultan himself. He could give no other excuse for the unwarranted delay in reply to the legation's many notes on the subject than that His Majesty had not as yet been able to take the matter up. * * *

I have, etc.,

SPENCER EDDY.

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN INTERESTS BY BRITISH VICE-CONSUL AT BITLIS.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 237.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, July 24, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of a dispatch from Consul Bergholz, in which he makes a request, at the instance of the Rev. Dr. Cole, that the British vice-consul at Bitlis be authorized to look after American interests in the Bitlis district.

I have no hesitation in indorsing Mr. Bergholz's recommendation, first having obtained the Department's approval, in which event I am quite satisfied the British Government will cheerfully give its consent, as my English colleague here has frequently suggested the desirability of having our consular agents throughout the Ottoman Empire look after each other's interests in the event of only one of the two powers having an agent in the district.

Awaiting your advices, I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Bergholz to Mr. Leishman.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Erzerum, Turkey, July 15, 1902.

SIR: Referring to the last paragraph of my dispatch No. 131, dated February 10, regarding the question of intrusting American interests at Bitlis to the British vice-consul and to your reply of February 28, No. 174 M. C., I am now in receipt of a letter from Rev. R. M. Cole, of the American mission, dated July 5, in which he writes me as follows:

"Our vali refuses to recognize any particular interference of the English vice-consul in protection of our American interests till special instructions on the point are given."

Since the Department has not deemed it advisable to take up, at the present time, the question of appointing a consul at Bitlis, and in view of the fact that our missionaries there are wholly dependent upon the British consular representative for the protection of their interests and treaty rights, and for such assistance as they may need, as I am so far away that I am unable to render them with the promptness necessary the aid they may desire, and having, besides, no official recognition either from the Porte or the local authorities outside of the province of Erzerum, I would respectfully recommend that your excellency obtain the consent of the British embassy to having American interests within the Bitlis Province represented by the British vice-consul and have, at the same time, a vizierial letter sent to the governor-general at Bitlis directing him to recognize the British vice-consulate as representing the United States.

I have, etc., LEO BERGHOLZ, *Consul.*

Mr. Adee to Mr. Leishman.

No. 216.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 16, 1902.

SIR: The Department is in receipt of a communication, dated the 19th ultimo, from the United States consul at Erzerum, inclosing a copy of correspondence had with your legation in regard to the protection of American interests at Bitlis by the British consul there.

You are instructed to request of the foreign office authorization for the British consul at Bitlis to use his good offices on behalf of American citizens in his jurisdiction.

I am, etc., ALVEY A. ADEE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. Adee to Mr. Leishman.

No. 228.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington August 27, 1902.

SIR: In connection with the Department's No. 216 of the 16th instant in regard to the protection of American interests at Bitlis by the British vice-consul there, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 237 of the 24th ultimo.

The Department will be pleased to have you apply to the British ambassador at Constantinople for the necessary authorization for the vice-consul to use his good offices for Americans in his jurisdiction, and to secure vizierial directions sent to the governor-general at Bitlis to recognize such good offices.

I am, etc., ALVEY A. ADEE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. Eddy to Mr. Hay.

No. 282.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 30, 1902.

SIR: Referring to the correspondence exchanged between the Department and this legation, and particularly to the Department's instruction No. 228 of August 27, ultimo, in relation to the protection of American interests at Bitlis by the British vice-consul there, I have the honor to state that I have received from the ministry of foreign affairs the customary ministerial letter recognizing him in this capacity, and I have this day transmitted same to the British ambassador, Sir Nicholas O'Conor, who has already authorized the official above mentioned to use his good offices for Americans in his jurisdiction.

I have, etc.,

SPENCER EDDY.

FRICTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES MINISTER AND THE GRAND VIZIER.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 7, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that a number of matters on which the minister for foreign affairs had taken favorable action, and so officially notified him during the past few months, have been countermanded or annulled by the grand vizier, who has repeatedly declined to see Mr. Leishman, a courtesy which is always extended to even the dragomans of the embassies; that no personal feeling could possibly enter into the matter, as the grand vizier has been in office only a few months and Mr. Leishman has seen him but once, when he called to pay his respects and extend congratulations upon the grand vizier's appointment.

In order to exhaust every effort Mr. Leishman again called this date (August 7) upon the grand vizier, but was again refused a reception. He then called upon the minister for foreign affairs and demanded an audience with the Sultan, at the same time requesting the minister to acquaint His Imperial Majesty with the nature of the business.

Mr. Leishman requests that, unless this audience with the Sultan is granted and not only the questions at issue but the principles involved in them are satisfactorily settled, he be given permission to demand his passports; and states that it would be worse than useless and derogatory to the dignity of the United States Government to continue relations with the Sublime Porte if, after weeks and even months of hard and patient work, business which has been fully settled with the minister for foreign affairs is to be rendered unavailing by the grand vizier's conflicting and countermanding orders.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 11, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that the Sultan has expressed, through the private secretary, the wish that Mr. Leishman would overlook the dis-

courtesy shown him, on the ground that the grand vizier is an old man and not feeling well, and call on the grand vizier on August 12.

Mr. Leishman has felt compelled to firmly but politely refuse to comply with this wish, on the ground that, although such a course might perhaps result in the settlement of some of the immediate questions at issue, it would, under present conditions, neither be compatible with the dignity of the Government of the United States nor settle the important principles involved; for, unless agreements which have been concluded between Mr. Leishman and the minister for foreign affairs are to be respected, it would be both undignified and useless for the representative of a great power such as the United States to attempt to prosecute its business through such a powerless intermediary.

Mr. Leishman expresses the conviction that good results will ensue from his firm stand.)

Mr. Adee to Mr. Leishman.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 14, 1902.

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(Mr. Adee suggests that, the Sultan having arranged for Mr. Leishman to meet the grand vizier, it may be best to see him and strongly insist upon adherence to agreements between Mr. Leishman and the minister for foreign affairs.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 18, 1902.

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(Mr. Leishman states that the emigration of wives and minor children of Ottoman origin is only one of the questions that have been settled with the minister for foreign affairs, but rendered inoperative by action of the grand vizier, who, when Mr. Leishman called to attempt to adjust the difficulties, declined, on four successive occasions, to receive him; that other questions are such as stopping completion of American mission buildings at Harput, for which official permit had been granted; failure to surrender policies of the New York Life Insurance Company seized at Tchoroun, etc., all of which the minister for foreign affairs notified Mr. Leishman had been settled and orders issued putting them into execution. Finding that these orders were ignored, Mr. Leishman, before assuming his present position, went through the farce of again taking up the matter and having fresh orders issued, with same results.

Mr. Leishman states that there are other annoying cases pending, the settlement of a number of which will probably result from action

already taken; but that unless proper satisfaction is insisted on in the present instance the important principle as to whether questions settled with the minister for foreign affairs are to be permitted to be rendered practically null and void by conflicting orders of the grand vizier, and whether the latter's refusal to grant to the Government of the United States treatment equal to that accorded to other great powers is to be tolerated will remain unsettled. * * *)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 21, 1902.

(Mr. Leishman reports that, the Sultan having sent his secretary begging Mr. Leishman to overlook the discourtesy of the grand vizier, and at the same time giving assurance that the questions immediately at issue would all be settled, and that His Imperial Majesty had sent the most emphatic instructions to the grand vizier to receive Mr. Leishman at all times in a manner befitting the dignity of the representative of a great power, he has consented to resume ordinary relations.

Having been forced to assume a strong position, Mr. Leishman regrets that the settlement was not based upon broader principles, but states that the action taken will undoubtedly have a good effect; that in view of wishes expressed in the Department's cabled instructions, he deemed it wise to close the affair on an honorable basis and to avoid even the possibility of strained relations.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 252.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 21, 1902.

SIR: My several cables will have already explained the nature of the trouble which I have experienced during the past two weeks and the manner in which they have been adjusted.

The maintenance of the dignity of the Government of the United States and its prestige in Turkey made it impossible for me to avoid the issue, for, while the immediate questions involved were of trifling importance, the principles involved were of a character that could not be overlooked, as I found myself completely blocked, the minister for foreign affairs being unable to put into execution the different questions that had been settled, owing to conflicting orders of the grand vizier, who on four successive occasions had declined to see me. Under these conditions it appeared useless to me to attempt to proceed further through the ordinary channels, and I could see no other way but to appeal the matter to His Imperial Majesty and assume the position that until such time as the questions which had been finally settled with the foreign office were put into execution and proper explanation made that I could have no particular relations with the Sublime Porte.

Although His Imperial Majesty avoided an unpleasant personal interview, he has treated the entire matter in the most gracious and considerate manner, appealing to me on personal grounds to overlook the matter and arrange an amicable settlement, and besides giving me the assurance that the difficulty would be promptly adjusted. He intimated his intention to establish a commission, with a view to adjust if possible the troublesome questions of naturalized American citizens of Ottoman origin who returned to their native land, who, according to the Ottoman laws, have never ceased to be Turkish subjects, and also the emigration of the immediate families of naturalized American citizens of Ottoman origin whose husbands and fathers are permanently established in the United States.

Now that the immediate troubles have been arranged, I have little doubt but that the Sultan will send for me to come and see him within the next week or ten days, as my personal relations with His Imperial Majesty are most friendly.

Trusting that my actions will meet with your approval, I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

Mr. Adee to Mr. Leishman.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 22, 1902.

(Mr. Adee states that the settlement reached, as reported in Mr. Leishman's telegram of August 21, is gratifying; that the broader principle thus established should admit of ready adjustment of differences; that it is indispensable that dealings between governments should be conducted through adequately empowered and responsible agencies; and that, if the Turkish minister for foreign affairs is incompetent to assure the faithful execution of his engagements, Mr. Leishman must treat with some one who can give such assurance.)

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 253.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 23, 1902.

SIR: I am just in receipt of your cable of yesterday, and am pleased to note that the settlement reached in regard to the recent difficulty meets with the Department's approval.

The idea conveyed in latter part of your telegram is exactly in accordance with the line of action I pursued, i. e., having concluded a number of small questions with the imperial minister of foreign affairs, who notified me officially of their settlement and also of the fact of orders having been issued to the several departments putting them into execution, I waited a reasonable length of time for these orders to be carried out, but finding that the local authorities had not received the promised instructions, owing to conflicting orders issued by the grand vizier, I called the attention of the minister for foreign affairs to the fact, who seemed very much annoyed and promised to have the trouble

corrected at once, afterwards showing me a copy of renewed orders to minister of the interior, minister of posts, etc., instructing them to immediately put former orders into execution, but the same result followed. I then endeavored on four different occasions to see the grand vizier with a view of having him correct the trouble, but he repeatedly declined to see me on one excuse or another, at the same time referring me to the minister for foreign affairs.

Finding myself thus completely blocked, the minister for foreign affairs, despite his apparently good intention, appearing incompetent to put his orders into execution, owing to superior orders of the grand vizier, who declined to see me, there was no other diplomatic remedy left but to appeal the matter to the Sultan. So, consequently, I notified the minister for foreign affairs that the position I found myself in was incompatible with the dignity of the United States Government, and that until such time as the questions which had been settled were put into execution and proper explanations made that I could not continue my ordinary relations with the Sublime Porte, at the same time demanding an audience with His Imperial Majesty.

The outcome you are already made familiar with by previous communications, and I can only hope that the apparently good results will prove lasting. I am of the opinion that the action taken by His Imperial Majesty will assure more respectful and considerate treatment at the Porte in the future, and that the position assumed will have a good effect generally.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

JEWS IN ROUMANIA—DISCRIMINATIONS AGAINST, CONDITION OF HELPLESSNESS TO WHICH THEY ARE REDUCED, AND OBJECTION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO IMMIGRATION OF SUCH PERSONS.

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 256.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, August 26, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your unnumbered instruction of August 12, 1902.

I shall lose no time in acquainting the Sublime Porte with the contents of the circular instruction[a] therein inclosed which deals with the situation of the Jews in Roumania.

I have, etc., JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

CONGRATULATIONS ON ANNIVERSARY OF SULTAN'S ACCESSION TO THRONE.

President Roosevelt to the Sultan of Turkey.

[Telegram.]

WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 1, 1902.

I ask Your Majesty to accept my congratulations upon the anniversary of your accession to the Ottoman throne.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

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[a] Printed under Austria, page 42.

The Sultan of Turkey to President Roosevelt.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

YILDIZ, *September 1, 1902.*

I have received with the keenest pleasure your excellency's telegram expressing your sincere felicitations on the occasion of the anniversary of my accession to the throne. I beg you to accept my warmest thanks.

ABDUL HAMID.

TREATY OF 1830—INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE IV.[a]

Mr. Leishman to Mr. Hay.

No. 268.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 3, 1902.

SIR: I beg to inclose herewith copy of a note received from the Sublime Porte in regard to Article IV of the treaty (of 1830) together with copy of my reply, which I trust will meet with your approval.

I have, etc.,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

[Inclosure 1.]

The Sublime Porte to Mr. Leishman.

Note verbale.] MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, *August 21, 1902.*

By its note verbale of January 2, 1901, the ministry of foreign affairs transmitted to the legation of the United States of America a list containing the names of those American citizens who, being charged with various offenses, are protected from judicial prosecution by reason of the difference of views existing between the two Governments relative to the interpretation of Article IV of the treaty of 1830, and once more emphasized the necessity of putting an end to this difference.

The said note has hitherto remained unanswered, and it appears from a recent communication to the Department of Justice that the United States consul still continues to decline to notify the said American citzens of the summonses to appear which have been issued against them by the Ottoman courts, and thus wholly to obstruct the action of justice.

Thus it is that the judicial steps recently taken against Ernest Salomon, an American citizen, residing in Timoni street, who is charged with having beaten and wounded one Yaco, have been entirely fruitless.

As the Imperial ministry has already stated at length in its preceding communications the reasons which render it incumbent upon it to put an end to a situation which is so incompatible with the incontestable right of the Imperial Government, it deems it unnecessary to take up this matter again. Confiding in the sentiments of justice which actuate the United States legation, it feels convinced that said legation will itself recognize the necessity of finally reaching an understanding on this subject, and that it will take the necessary measures in order that this question may, without further delay, be settled in accordance with the principles of law and with the spirit of the treaties that have been concluded by the American Government with the Sublime Porte.

[Inclosure 2.]

Mr. Leishman to the Sublime Porte.

Note verbale.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, September 2, 1902.

In reply to the note verbale of the Sublime Porte dated August 21, 1902, the legation of the United States of America has the honor to advise the Imperial ministry

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[a] See Foreign Relations, 1900, page 909.

of foreign affairs that it does not consider itself competent to make any alterations or modifications in the terms and conditions of the solemn agreements entered into between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the Government of the United States of America, as evidenced by the treaty concluded by the two Governments under date of 7th May, 1830, nor can it change or modify the interpretation already given by the Department of State. Consequently the legation is unable to instruct the United States consulate-general and the several consulates to deviate from the construction placed by the United States Government on Article IV of the treaty of the above mentioned date, and from the position which it has always maintained, and which position is well known to the Imperial Ottoman Government.

This legation desires here to point out that the United States consulate-general and consulates in Turkey, in declining to serve on United States citizens warrants or summonses to appear in Ottoman criminal or correctional courts, are not prompted by any spirit of infringing the action of justice. In the same way that the United States consular courts are ready to hear criminal or correctional actions against Americans accused and prosecuted by American citizens or other foreigners, so are they ready to hear such actions if the accused Americans are prosecuted by the Imperial Ottoman Government or by Ottoman subjects appearing as partie civile. And the Sublime Porte may be sure that in case such accused American citizens should be found guilty they will be convicted and punished according to the provisions of American law.

As a general principle, the legation can not consider for a moment the waiving of any of the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of the United States. But in order to avoid if possible the friction which constantly arises, it would respectfully suggest the advisability of the imperial Ottoman Government instructing its representative at Washington to take the matter up direct with the Department of State, with a view of arriving at a solution satisfactory to both Governments.

Mr. Adee to Mr. Eddy.

No. 243.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 25, 1902.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Leishman's No. 268, of the 3d instant, transmitting a copy of a note from the sublime porte in regard to the interpretation of Article IV of the treaty between the United States and Turkey of May 7, 1830.

His note verbale of the 3d instant in reply to that of the minister of foreign affairs is approved by the Department.

I am, etc.,

ALVEY A. ADEE, *Acting Secretary.*

ACCIDENT TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

The Sultan of Turkey to President Roosevelt.

[Telegram.—Translation.]

YILDIZ, *September 4, 1902.*

I have heard with great sorrow of the accident that has befallen you. Happily the accident has been attended with no serious consequence to Your Excellency. I express to you my delight and congratulations therefor.

ABDUL HAMID.

President Roosevelt to the Sultan of Turkey.

[Telegram.]

WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 5, 1902.

Your Majesty's cordial message is most acceptable and I thank you.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.